

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor (At-Large)
Michele Fiore, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 6)
Brian Knudsen (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Diaz (Ward 3)
Stavros S. Anthony (Ward 4)
Cedric Crear (Ward 5)



City Manager Scott Adams
City Attorney Bradford R. Jerbic
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

November 6, 2019
9:00 AM

62. Bill No. 2019-36 - For possible action - An ordinance generally prohibiting camping, lodging, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within specified districts of the city of Las Vegas, or within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food processing facility. Sponsored by: Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman

Motion made by Carolyn Goodman to Approve as a First Amendment

Passed For: 5; Against: 2; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Cedric Crear, Stavros Anthony, Carolyn Goodman, Michele Fiore; Against-Brian Knudsen, Olivia Diaz;

Minutes:

NOTE: A Verbatim Transcript is made a part of the Final Minutes.

Appearance List:

CAROLYN GOODMAN, Mayor
MICHELE FIORE, Mayor Pro Tem
JEFF DOROCK, Deputy City Attorney
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER
STAVROS ANTHONY, Councilman
BRAD JERBIC, City Attorney
VICTORIA SEAMAN, Councilwoman
JERRY WALKER, Director of Operations and Maintenance
CEDRIC CREAR, Councilman
LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer
STACEY CAMPBELL, Chief Deputy City Clerk
BRIAN KNUDSEN, Councilman
OLIVIA DIAZ, Councilwoman
JOEL LOIZA, resident of Las Vegas, Nevada
CHRIS KAEMPFER, 1980 Festival Plaza Drive
GARY PECK, 1045 Morning Sun Way
CHUCK CALLOWAY, Director of Intergovernmental Services for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
LIEUTENANT HATCHETT, MORE homeless outreach
JOEY LANKOWSKI, resident of 89123
LUANN HOLMES, City Clerk
SCOTT NICOLAS, Vice President of Las Vegas Police Protective Association
DANNY KEENE, South Casino Center Boulevard
CAROLYN WHEELER, resident of Councilwoman Seaman's district and appeared on behalf of the Downtown Vegas Alliance

DONNA WEST, resident of Clark County
PATRICK HUGHES, resident of Ward 3 and President and CEO of the Fremont Street Experience
WILL PREGMAN, 11652 Terenzio Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89183
LEX ANDERSON, 3709 Waterhole Street
KATIE KRICKORIAN, resident of Ward 5
DAVID GAYON
LESLIE TURNER, resident of Ward 5
DAVID SCHWIEND, resident of Las Vegas
DEJA WARO-COLE, resident of 89110, student, veteran, and organizer for Battle Born Progress
PATRICIA MESSINGER, resident of Ward 5 and Former Candidate for Ward 5 Councilperson
TIMOTHY ELIADO resident of Ward 1
CINDY PARKER, resident of 89134
LEAH JUSTINE AIRD
DAVE DOZLICH, Director of Government Affairs for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
D'ANTHONY BRIMM, resident of North Las Vegas
RENÉE BOORMAN, resident of Paradise Palms
MARIA TERESA LIEBERMAN, 4540 Standing Bluff Way, Ward 4
JANE KATEN, on behalf of a business owner on 4th Street in downtown Las Vegas
HILLARY KLOPFER, on behalf of a business owner on 4th Street in downtown Las Vegas
TIMOTHY UNDERWOOD, resident
RAYMOND FLETCHER, resident of Ward 1
LYNN BOLAND, resident of Ward 5
STEVEN DEMPSEY, We Are Change Las Vegas
BRICEIDA CASTRO, resident of unincorporated Las Vegas and Economic Justice Organizer with the
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
ASBURY EDENS, resident of 89122
WILLIAM DRENNAN, 4th and Clark
CURTIS MENIFEE, resident of Ward 5
ANNETTE WALKER, resident of 89107, Ward 1
MARGARET OAKS, resident of Summerlin and retired Professor of Social Work at UNLV
BRANDON SCIENSKI, resident of 89101
JUSTIN JONES, County Commissioner, resident of 89178
DAYVID FIGLER, 1302 South 6th Street
JOSE MACIAS, resident of Las Vegas, 89108
ALMA ROMO, resident of Ward 4 and the Nevada State Coordinator with Mi Familia Vota
JORDAN BIRD, resident of 89031
ERICA CASTRO, resident of Las Vegas
JONAS RAND, resident of unincorporated Paradise, Clark County
JACKIE CHALKLISS, resident of 89117
MICHAEL SWECKER, resident of Henderson, Nevada and President of Care Complex
NYA AYALA, resident of East Las Vegas
JIM CARROWAY
WARREN WILLIAMS, resident of Las Vegas and Founder of Quality Living Do Right Ministries for World Peace,
Universal Justice and Fairness for All
GABRIELLE D'AYR resident of Clark County, United States Navy veteran, and homeless
MARILYN WHITAKER, homeless
MEGAN ORTIZ, resident of North Las Vegas, Nevada, 89081

Second reading and Bill adopted as a First Amendment as Ordinance No. 6710.

See Item 8 for related discussion.



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
City Council
Meeting of: November 6, 2019

Agenda Item No.:
62

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney
DIRECTOR: Brad Jerbic

DISCUSSION

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE: BILLS ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION AT THIS MEETING

Bill No. 2019-36 - For possible action - An ordinance generally prohibiting camping, lodging, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within specified districts of the city of Las Vegas, or within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food processing facility. Sponsored by: Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This bill will generally prohibit camping, lodging, sitting, lying down, sleeping, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within eleven specified districts of the city of Las Vegas, or within 500 feet of a food processing facility. Subsection (C) of Section 10.86.010 provides affirmative defenses to prosecution under this bill. Section 10.86.020 sets forth requirements that must be met by an officer enforcing this bill before any citation or arrest may be made. Section 10.86.040 suspends enforcement of this bill under certain circumstances.

RECOMMENDATION:

Referred from the October 2, 2019 City Council meeting to Full Council for consideration at the November 6, 2019 City Council Meeting. Bill is eligible for adoption at this meeting.

First Read – 10/2/2019

First Publication – 10/15/2019

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Bill No. 2019-36
2. Submitted after Final Agenda - Opposition Letter from National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and Support Comment Form from Kevin Boyle, President, Solana Del Mar Homeowners Association
3. Submitted at Meeting - PowerPoint Presentation by Staff and Letters of Protest by Brooke Feder (under Item 8), Leonard Martin and Warren Williams
4. Verbatim Transcript

BILL NO. 2019-36

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE GENERALLY TO PROHIBIT CAMPING, LODGING, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WITHIN ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, WITHIN SPECIFIED DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, OR WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED FEET OF ANY RECEIVING DOCK OF A FOOD PROCESSING FACILITY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by: Mayor Carolyn Goodman

Summary: Generally prohibits camping, lodging, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within specified districts of the city of Las Vegas, or within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food processing facility.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Title 10 of the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983 Edition, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new chapter, designated as Chapter 86 and consisting of Sections 10 through 40 thereof, reading as follows:

10.86.010: (A) It is unlawful for a person to do any of the following within any public right-of-way designated in Section 10.86.030:

(1) Sit or lie down;

(2) Sit or lie down on a blanket, stool, or any other object; or

(3) Camp or lodge.

(B) For purposes of Subsection (A):

(1) "Camp or lodge" means:

(a) Sleeping or otherwise being in a temporary shelter outdoors;

(b) Sleeping outdoors;

(c) Cooking over an open flame or fire outdoors; or

(d) Laying down bedding or setting up a tent, shelter, or similar structure for purposes of sleeping or temporary living.

1 (2) “Public right-of-way” means the full width of any dedicated street, alley, or
2 highway, including any public sidewalk.

3 (C) It is an affirmative defense to any prosecution under Subsection (A) that the person
4 is:

5 (1) Sitting or lying down because of a medical emergency;

6 (2) As the result of a disability, utilizing a wheelchair, walker, or similar device
7 to move about the right-of-way;

8 (3) Operating or patronizing a commercial establishment or service or
9 governmental function conducted at the location pursuant to a permit or authorization issued under this Code;

10 (4) Participating in or attending a parade, festival, performance, rally,
11 demonstration, meeting, or similar event lawfully conducted in the public right-of-way;

12 (5) Sitting on a chair or bench that has been supplied by the abutting private
13 property owner; or

14 (6) Sitting or has placed materials on a sidewalk while waiting for public or
15 private transportation or waiting for access to enter any building.

16 **10.86.020:** (A) Before issuing a citation or making an arrest to enforce Section 10.86.010, an officer
17 charged with its enforcement who observes a violation of Section 10.86.010 must:

18 (1) Notify the person engaged in the prohibited conduct that he or she is in
19 violation;

20 (2) Inform the person that resources are available at the Courtyard Homeless
21 Resource Center; and

22 (3) Direct the person engaged in the prohibited conduct to a location not subject
23 to this Chapter.

24 (B) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under Section 10.86.010 that any person
25 so notified as described in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (A) of this Section promptly ceased, within a time
26 reasonable under the circumstances, to engage in the prohibited conduct following such notification.

1 **10.86.030:** The provisions of this Chapter apply to:

2 (A) Any public right-of-way adjacent to property zoned for residential use;

3 (B) Any public right-of-way adjacent to, or included within, the following areas, as they
4 are described in the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan:

5 (1) 18b Las Vegas Arts District;

6 (2) Cashman District;

7 (3) Civil & Business District;

8 (4) Design District;

9 (5) Founders District;

10 (6) Fremont East District;

11 (7) Gateway District;

12 (8) Las Vegas Medical District;

13 (9) Market Corridor District;

14 (10) Resort & Casino District;

15 (11) Symphony Park District;

16 (C) Any public right-of-way within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food
17 processing facility. For purposes of the preceding sentence:

18 (1) "Food processing facility" means a commercial operation that:

19 (a) Manufactures, processes or packages food products of any kind; and

20 (b) Is required to undergo periodic inspections by the United States
21 Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, or another Federal or State
22 agency that either has:

23 (i) Regulatory jurisdiction over the food processing facility
24 with regard to food products; or

25 (ii) A contractual agreement with the food processing facility
26 by which the facility provides food products to the agency.

1 (2) “Receiving dock” means a bay or other raised structure that is used to
2 receive the delivery of food products to a food processing facility. For purposes of Paragraphs (1) and (2) of
3 Subsection 10.86.030(C), “food product” means any food, drink, confection or beverage, or any component
4 in the preparation or manufacture thereof, intended for ultimate human consumption. The term includes
5 packaged ice.

6 **10.86.040:** (A) The Director of the Office of Community Services, or a designee, will immediately
7 notify the Department of Public Safety and Metro when all of the following locations reach maximum
8 occupancy:

9 (1) The Courtyard Homeless Resource Center;

10 (2) The Las Vegas Rescue Mission; and

11 (3) Publicly funded emergency shelters located within the City’s jurisdiction.

12 (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, no arrest may be made nor any
13 criminal penalty imposed for a violation of this Chapter if the violation occurs after the notification described
14 in Subsection (A) of this Section. The suspension of this Chapter, described in the preceding sentence, will
15 terminate at six a.m. immediately following the notification described in Subsection (A) of this Section, and
16 enforcement of this Chapter resumes.

17 SECTION 2: If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase
18 in this ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by
19 any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the
20 remaining portions of this ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council of the City of Las Vegas hereby
21 declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase
22 thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs,
23 sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional, invalid or ineffective.

24 SECTION 3: Whenever in this ordinance any act is prohibited or is made or declared to
25 be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, or whenever in this ordinance the doing of any act is required
26 or the failure to do any act is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, the doing of

1 such prohibited act or the failure to do any such required act shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon
2 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for a term of
3 not more than six months, or by any combination of such fine and imprisonment. Any day of any violation
4 of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

5 SECTION 4: All ordinances or parts of ordinances or sections, subsections, phrases,
6 sentences, clauses or paragraphs contained in the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983
7 Edition, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

8 PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

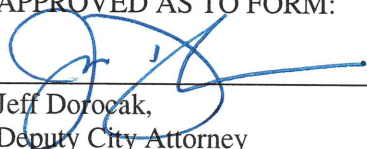
9 APPROVED:

10 By _____
11 CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, Mayor

12 ATTEST:

13 _____
14 LUANN D. HOLMES, MMC
City Clerk

15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

16 
17 Jeff Dorogak,
Deputy City Attorney

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
Date 9/17/19

1 The above and foregoing ordinance was first proposed and read by title to the City Council on the ____ day
2 of _____, 2019, and referred to a committee for recommendation, the committee being
3 composed of the following members _____;
4 thereafter the said committee reported favorably on said ordinance on the ____ day of
5 _____, 2019, which was a _____ meeting of said Council; that at said
6 _____ meeting, the proposed ordinance was read by title to the City Council as first
7 introduced and adopted by the following vote:

8 VOTING "AYE": _____

9 VOTING "NAY": _____

10 ABSENT: _____

11 APPROVED:

12
13 By _____
CAROLYN G. GOODMAN, Mayor

14 ATTEST:

15 _____
16 LUANN D. HOLMES, MMC
City Clerk

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

RECEIVED
CLERK
2019 NOV -4 P 2:50
November 4, 2018

Carolyn G. Goodman, officeofthemayor@lasvegasnevada.gov
Michele Fiore, mfiore@lasvegasnevada.gov
Brian Knudsen, ward1@lasvegasnevada.gov
Victoria Scaman, ward2@lasvegasnevada.gov
Olivia Diaz, ward3@lasvegasnevada.gov
Stavros S. Anthony, ward4@lasvegasnevada.gov
Cedric Crear, ccrear@lasvegasnevada.gov
Via email

Dear Councilmembers:

I write on behalf of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty ("Law Center") to urge you to **oppose and reject proposed Bill No. 2019-36, prohibiting camping, lodging, and similar activities on public property**, and to express our concern that the city of Las Vegas may be pursuing ineffective, expensive, and likely illegal punishment strategies rather than constructive solutions to homelessness.

The Law Center is the nation's only legal advocacy organization dedicated solely to ending and preventing homelessness. Since 1991, the Law Center has documented a dramatic increase in laws that criminally punish homeless people for performing harmless, life-sustaining activities in public places, as well as the negative consequences of these discriminatory measures nationwide. *See* National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, *HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS IN U.S. CITIES* (2016), <https://www.nlcnp.org/documents/Housing-Not-Handcuffs>. The Law Center's recent reports demonstrate that laws such as the proposed ban on camping do not address the underlying causes of homelessness, and instead injure homeless persons' rights and waste taxpayer resources by temporarily cycling people through the costly criminal justice system only to have them return to the streets, now with criminal records that make it more difficult for them to access needed employment, housing, and benefits.

Punishing homelessness through tickets or arrests is an expensive and ineffective response to homelessness. Whether punished through civil fines or immediate incarceration, homeless persons usually cannot pay fines, and because they often miss notices to appear in court due to a lack of permanent address, those fines frequently turn into a bench warrant and a criminal arrest. As stated by the Department of Justice in the context of its argument regarding an anti-camping ordinance in *Bell v. Boise*:

Criminalizing public sleeping in cities with insufficient housing and support for homeless individuals does not improve public safety outcomes or reduce the factors that contribute to homelessness... Issuing citations for public sleeping forces individuals into the criminal justice system and creates additional obstacles to overcoming homelessness. Criminal records can create barriers to employment and participation in permanent, supportive housing programs. Convictions under these municipal ordinances can also lead to lengthy jail sentences based on the ordinance violation itself, or the inability to pay fines and fees associated with the ordinance violation... Finally, pursuing charges against individuals for sleeping in public imposes further burdens on scarce public defender, judicial, and carceral resources. Thus, criminalizing homelessness is both unconstitutional and misguided public policy, leading to worse outcomes for people who are homeless and for their communities.

2000 M Street, N.W., Suite 210, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | www.nlcnp.org | PHONE: 202.638.2535 | FAX: 202.628.2737

Submitted after final agenda

Date 11/4/19 Item 62

Bell v. Boise, et. al., 1:09-cv-540-REB, Statement of Interest of the United States (Aug. 6, 2015).

Numerous studies have shown that communities actually save money by providing housing and services to those in need, rather saddling them with fines, fees and arrest records and cycling them through expensive hospital and jail systems. See HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS, *supra*. The Economic Roundtable of Homelessness in Los Angeles found that housing reduced average monthly spending by 41% per person, even after including the cost of providing housing. *This savings included a 95% reduction in jail facilities and services costs.* To bring this home, a 2015 Vera Institute study estimated the monthly cost of incarcerating someone in Nevada is close to \$1500, but according to Rent Jungle, the average cost of a one-bedroom rental in Las Vegas is \$957 – less than two-thirds the cost. Vera Institute, *The Price of Prisons* (2015), <https://www.vera.org/publications/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends/price-of-prisons-2015-state-spending-trends-prison-spending>; Rent Jungle *Rent Trend data in Las Vegas, Nevada*, (Mar. 2018), <https://www.rentjungle.com/average-rent-in-las-vegas-rent-trends/>. Though it may hide the costs in the law enforcement and jail budget, passing the anti-camping ordinance at issue here will incur significant costs for the city and its taxpayers—without solving the problem of homelessness. If the city's true interest is in the economic growth of downtown, it could make a much better investment in that growth by providing housing and services, rather than making it harder for people to exit homelessness due to criminal penalties and arrest records.

Additionally, this proposal runs afoul of the federal government's policies to end homelessness, and may ultimately threaten the community's access to federal funding to provide homeless services. For the past four years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has asked questions on its funding application for its \$2.5 billion Continuum of Care funding stream to reward Continuums that have implemented constructive solutions to homelessness, and restrict funding from those that continue criminalization strategies.

Punishing Camping in the Absence of Adequate Alternatives is Unconstitutional. Just last September, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held in *Martin v. City of Boise*, 902 F.3d 1031 (9th Cir. 2018) that “the Eighth Amendment prohibits the imposition of criminal penalties for sitting, sleeping, or lying outside on public property for homeless individuals who cannot obtain shelter.” It ruled that “as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter.” Moreover, during the years leading up to the *Martin* decision between 2014 and 2017, 57% of lawsuits brought against municipalities for anti-sleeping or anti-camping ordinances resulted in decisions favorable to the homeless plaintiffs. See National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS: A LITIGATION MANUAL (2017), <https://www.nlchp.org/documents/Housing-Not-Handcuffs-Litigation-Manual>. Litigation would be an additional fiscal cost to the city, as well as injuring the dignity and rights of its most vulnerable citizens.

Based in part on *Martin*, a federal judge in California enjoined enforcement of an anti-camping ordinance against a group of close to 1,000 homeless campers in Orange County, forcing the county and cities to provide alternative housing before they could clear the encampment. See *Orange County Catholic Worker et. Al v. Orange County*, Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order, Case 8:18-cv-00155 (Feb. 6, 2018). Eventually, in a settlement agreement, the Orange County Sheriff's Department was required to establish specific policies and procedures before enforcing certain provisions of the county's ordinance, which was also required to comply with the *Martin* decision. See Part 4 of Settlement Agreement <https://voiccofoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/County-settlement-agreement-in-homelessness-lawsuit-July-2019.pdf>. In particular, the Sheriff's Department was forbidden from transporting homeless individuals outside of the county's predetermined “service planning areas.” See Exhibit 2 of Settlement

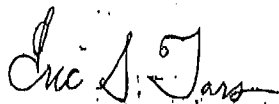
Agreement. Also, the Sheriff's Department was required to give homeless individuals "a warning and an opportunity to immediately relocate to a location where the person may lawfully be present before issuing a citation and/or effecting an arrest." *Id.* at Part 4.

While the sponsors' stated intent of ordinance is to help those in need, the proposal likely will do more harm than good. The Mayor's suggestion to retrofit a former state prison in Jean, Nevada, into a treatment facility for homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses does nothing more than exile the community's most vulnerable individuals from those available resources within the city Las Vegas, and may run afoul of the Americans with Disabilities Act's requirements to treat people with disabilities in community-based settings wherever possible. The facility in Jean is far away, and the individuals that would be committed to the facility would have no way to get back to see family and friends. Moreover, while some highly visible homeless persons may require the level of care that such a facility would provide, the vast majority of people experiencing homelessness in Las Vegas are homeless because of economic, not mental health, issues. The Law Center emphasizes that *Martin* requires an *adequate* alternative for each individual—and location is an important component of that adequacy, with the Orange County Settlement Agreement serving as valuable guidepost for what is required.

Similarly, while a low-barrier shelter like the Courtyard is a much needed element in a community's response, its congregate, outdoor sleeping facilities may not be appropriate for every homeless individual—nor does an outdoor facility necessarily satisfy *Martin's* mandate for indoor alternatives—and forcing some to go there under threat of arrest will not help that person exit homelessness. Where services are truly in demand, we see lines around the block every time—for example, when the Section 8 voucher waitlist is opened. If the Courtyard had an environment and services that was truly suitable for everyone, there would be a similar line for it. The city would do better to follow national best practices such as those developed by the 100,000 Homes Campaign, that successfully housed more than 100,000 of the so-called most "service-resistant" homeless persons, which include developing a by-name list for each homeless individual with a record of what barriers they see to utilizing existing services, and then working to match individuals with appropriate housing. The city could also follow other cities that use temporarily vacant spaces as shelters, rotate shelters among different churches, allow residents to put tiny homes in backyards, or provide safe parking options for people living in vehicles.

In an era of record poverty, prolonged unemployment, and a shrinking stock of affordable housing, sensible and cost-effective policies are needed – not ineffective measures that waste precious taxpayer dollars. The Law Center urges the Las Vegas City Commission to vote "no" on the proposed anti-camping ordinance No. 2019-36. If the city of Las Vegas is truly concerned about the existence of homeless campers on its streets, the best, and most cost-effective way to address the problem is by removing the need for people to shelter themselves in public in the first place, by providing adequate housing and services nearby. Our reports document numerous case studies of constructive alternatives to criminalization; if the city would like, we would be happy to work with you to implement solutions that work for everyone. Please feel free to contact me at etars@nlchp.org or 202-638-2535 x. 120 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Tars
Legal Director

Formstack Submission For: Contact the City

Submitted at 11/05/19 9:34 AM

**Who to
contact?:** Ward 6

Your name: Kevin F. Boyle

Kevin F. Boyle
5465 Cardinal Ridge Court #102
Las Vegas, Nevada 89194
kfboyle@cox.net

November 5, 2019

Mayor Pro Tem Michele Fiore
City of Las Vegas.
Las Vegas City Hall
495 S. Main St.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Mayor Pro Tem Fiore;

Comments: I am writing to express the unanimous support of the Board of Directors of the Solana Del Mar Home Owners Association for Bill No. 2019-36 that will ban camping on the public right of way and other designated areas in our city. Our HOA is in the North West at Painted Desert. We have experienced the impact of vagrants camping out around our community. We believe that this ordinance is vital to ensure the livelihood and continued economic growth of our downtown. While compassion must be shown for those that are truly in need our government must also protect the health and safety of all its residents. We hope that the City Council will pass this reasonable and compassionate ordinance.
Sincerely;

Kevin F. Boyle
President, Solana Del Mar Home Owners Association
Las Vegas, Nevada.

Phone: (702) 885-0770

Email: kfboyle@cox.net

ENCAMPMENT ORDINANCE BILL 2019-36

NOVEMBER 6, 2019



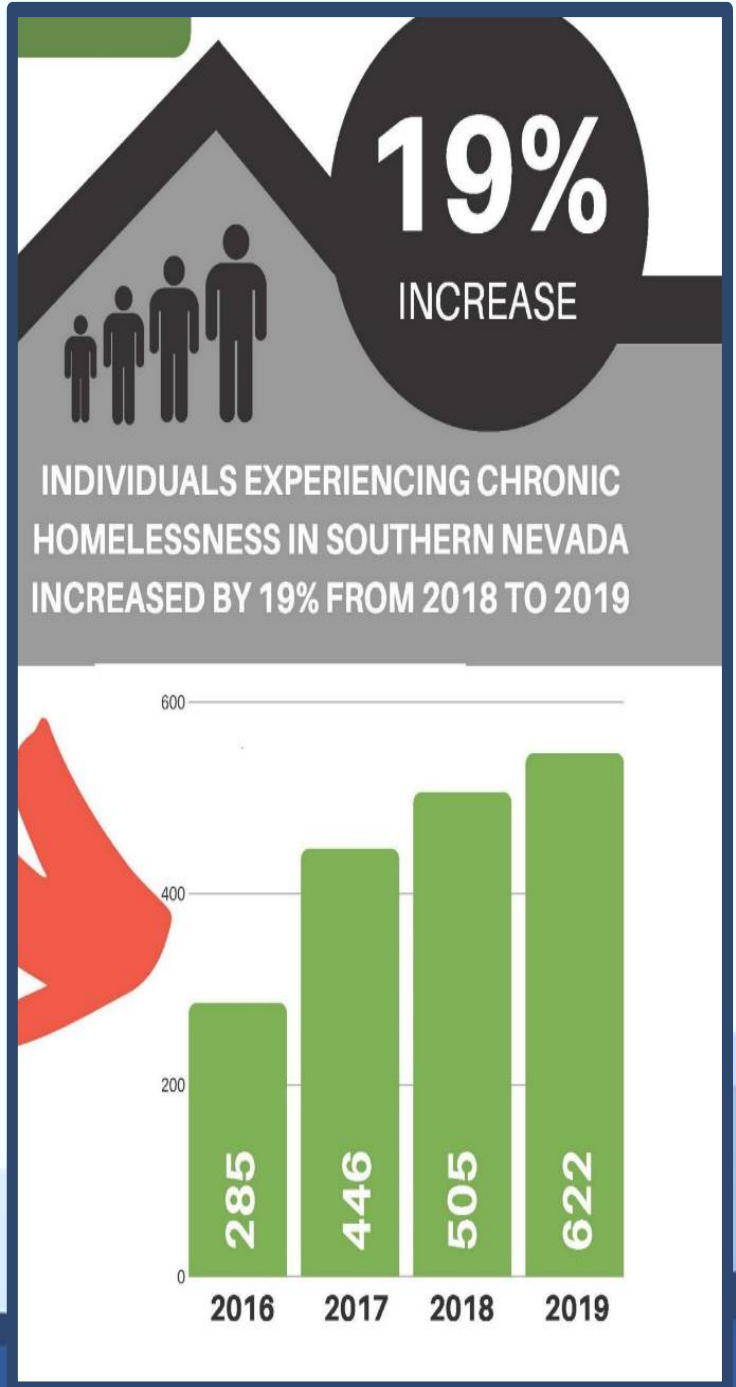
**WHY ARE WE HERE?
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**



A WORD ON STATISTICS

9% decrease in the number of individuals counted during the PIT census between 2018 and 2019

Total Number of Individuals Counted During the PIT Census



SOURCE: HELP HOPE HOME OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

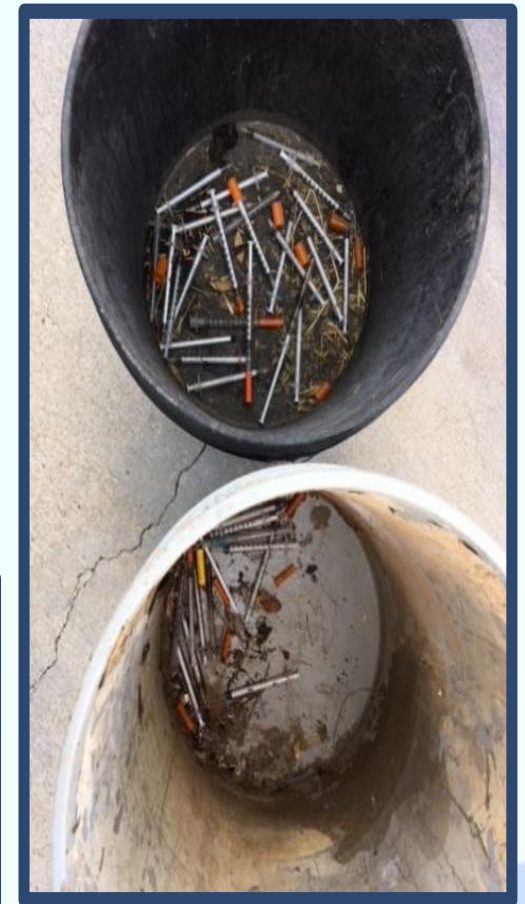
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL: “DROP IN CLARK COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS ATTRACTS SKEPTICISM”

- “While the annual census . . . showed a 13 percent decline from the previous year, many of those laboring on the front lines of the battle against homelessness say they see no evidence that the stubborn problem is easing.”
- “[Tom] Roberts and leaders of other local service providers say they can’t explain the decline but add that it contradicts what they see from the trenches.”
- “‘I don’t know where they got these numbers,’ said Arnold Stalk, CEO of Veterans Village.”
- “‘It’s just like a picture, and it’s kind of a moment frozen in time,’ said Clark County Social Service Manager Michele Fuller-Hallauer”
- “[A] federal guideline implemented in last year’s count . . . estimated that each tent spotted contains 1.21 people, rather than the 3.12 people used in previous years.”
- “T.J., a 67-year-old . . . has spent a decade living on and off the streets of Las Vegas . . . ‘I can guarantee [the homeless census] is wrong; they probably missed half.’”

ARTICLE BY BRIANA ERICKSON (JULY 19, 2019)

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: RESULTS OF CAMPING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Sanitary Condition Related Diseases
- Vector Control Related Diseases
 - Rodents, pigeons & mosquitos
- Drug Paraphernalia Diseases



PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: DISEASE EXAMPLES IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

The Seattle Times Project Homeless

Rare infectious diseases are rising at an 'alarming' rate in Seattle's homeless population, concerning health officials

"In addition to strep A, public health officials issued a advisory in February about outbreaks of shigella, a highly contagious diarrheal illness, and Bartonella quintana, an infection known as "trench fever" when it spread among World War I soldiers."

Medieval Diseases Are Infecting California's Homeless

Typhus, tuberculosis, and other illnesses are spreading quickly through camps and shelters.

"People in Washington State have been infected with Shigella bacteria...as well as Bartonella quintana, or trench fever, which spreads through body lice.*"

"Hepatitis A... infected more than 1,000 people in Southern California in the past two years. The disease also has erupted in New Mexico, Ohio, and Kentucky, primarily among people who are homeless or use drugs."

Los Angeles Times

'Typhus zone': Rats and trash infest Los Angeles' skid row, fueling disease

"City officials recently declared downtown's skid row — roughly 54 square blocks where more than 4,000 homeless congregate — a "typhus zone.""

Police

Training & Careers Special Units Patrol Technology

3 LAPD Officers Get MRSA from Contact with Homeless Subject, Union Says

Los Angeles Times May 8, 2019 • by PCL Staff

Rats and other vermin infest LAPD downtown station, sparking anger among officers

"Southern Nevada Health District is reporting 10 additional West Nile Virus for a total of 29 cases."

Team battles hepatitis A outbreak in Las Vegas **Los Angeles Times** LAPD employee contracts bacteria that causes typhoid

Rats and other vermin infest LAPD downtown station, sparking anger among officers

'Multiple' Minnesota counties affected by hep A outbreak; officials say drug users, homeless hit **OUTBREAKS - Published August 9**

As homeless crisis worsens in L.A., the county leans on city officials to act

On Friday, the county's health officer, Dr. Muntu Davis, sent a letter to the city expressing concern about simmering health issues that will worsen in homeless encampments where bathrooms are scarce and on city streets buried in heaps of dumped trash.

Hepatitis A Sparks Public Health Emergencies in Florida, Philadelphia

Imperial Beach makes it illegal to camp, sleep on streets, sidewalks. "We want to make sure we're taking all steps necessary to protect our residents and try to make sure our community stays clean and as sanitary as possible"

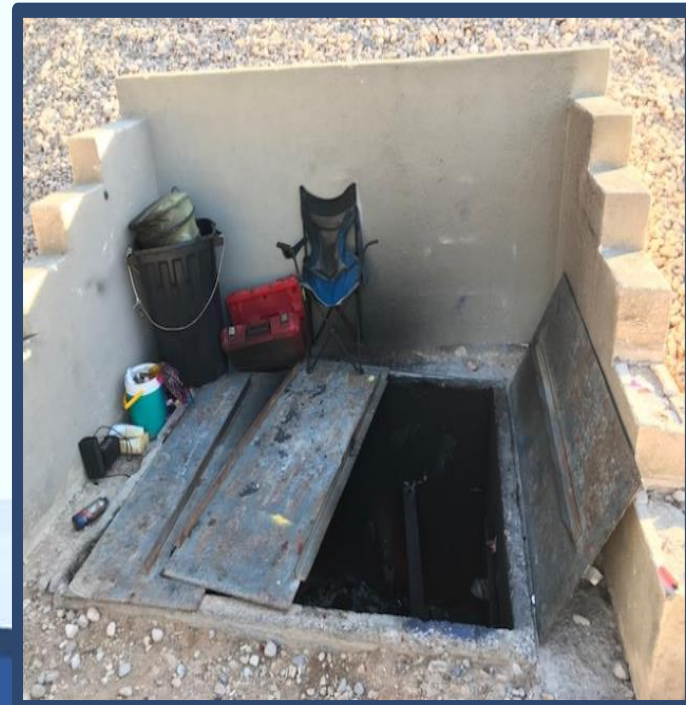
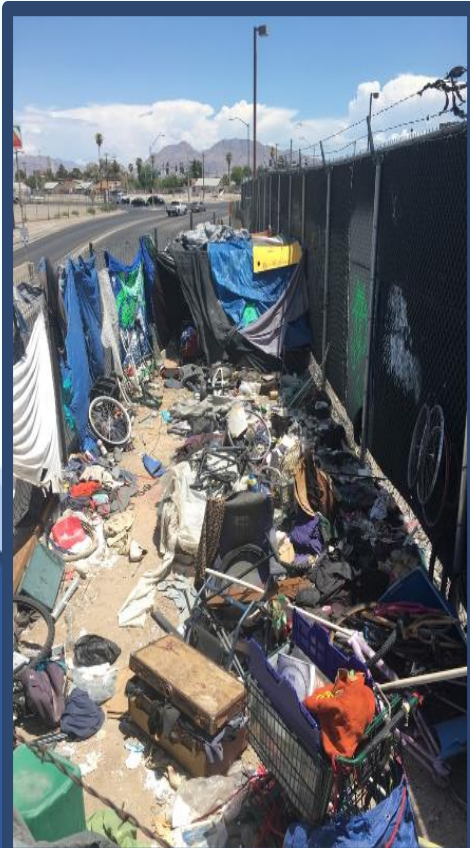
As homeless are suffering, risk of hepatitis, typhus and other diseases is growing

"From Los Angeles to Kentucky, across the USA, experts said, growing homeless populations are increasingly susceptible to outbreaks of contagious diseases, including typhus, Hepatitis A and Shigella."



PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: RESULTS OF CAMPING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Fire Hazards & Emergency Service
- Pedestrian-Vehicle Conflicts
- Personal & Property Safety
- Water Quality & MS4
- Visual & Odor Blight
- Regulatory Violations
- Public Fiscal Considerations



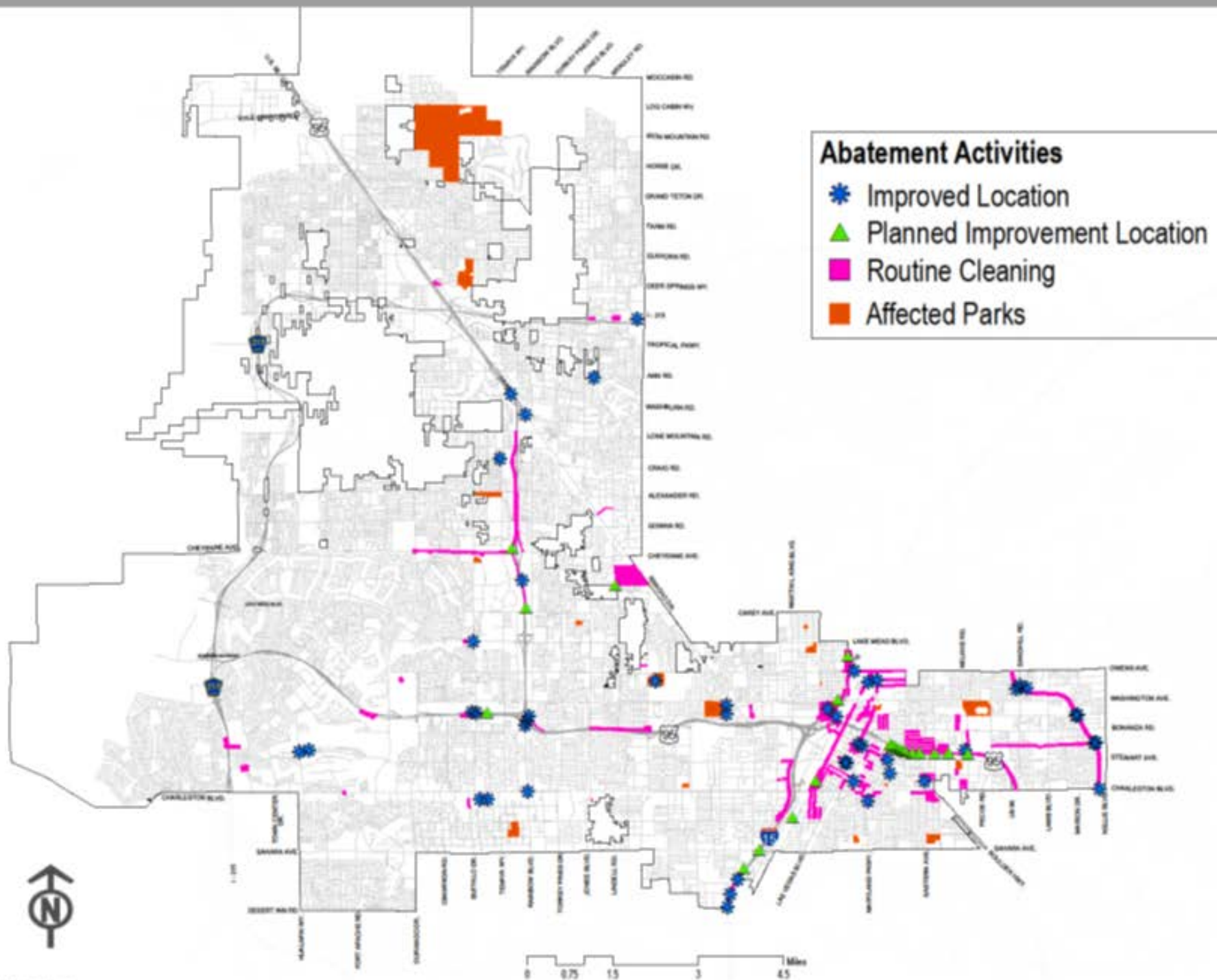
PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: CURRENT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance Crews Providing Cleanup and Abatement Efforts
 - Nine staff, including a supervisor and maintenance workers
 - Encampment abatement and cleaning
- Additional Crew Support (East, West, and Downtown street & storm drain crews)
 - Public rights-of-way, trails, and drainage structures
 - Cleaning and sanitation work
 - Security application: storm-drain fencing and trash racks
- Parks and Grounds Maintenance
 - Cleaning and hazard abatement in city parks
 - Additional application options utilizing environmental fee under review

Annual Cost: \$2.7 million



RECENT ABATEMENT EFFORTS



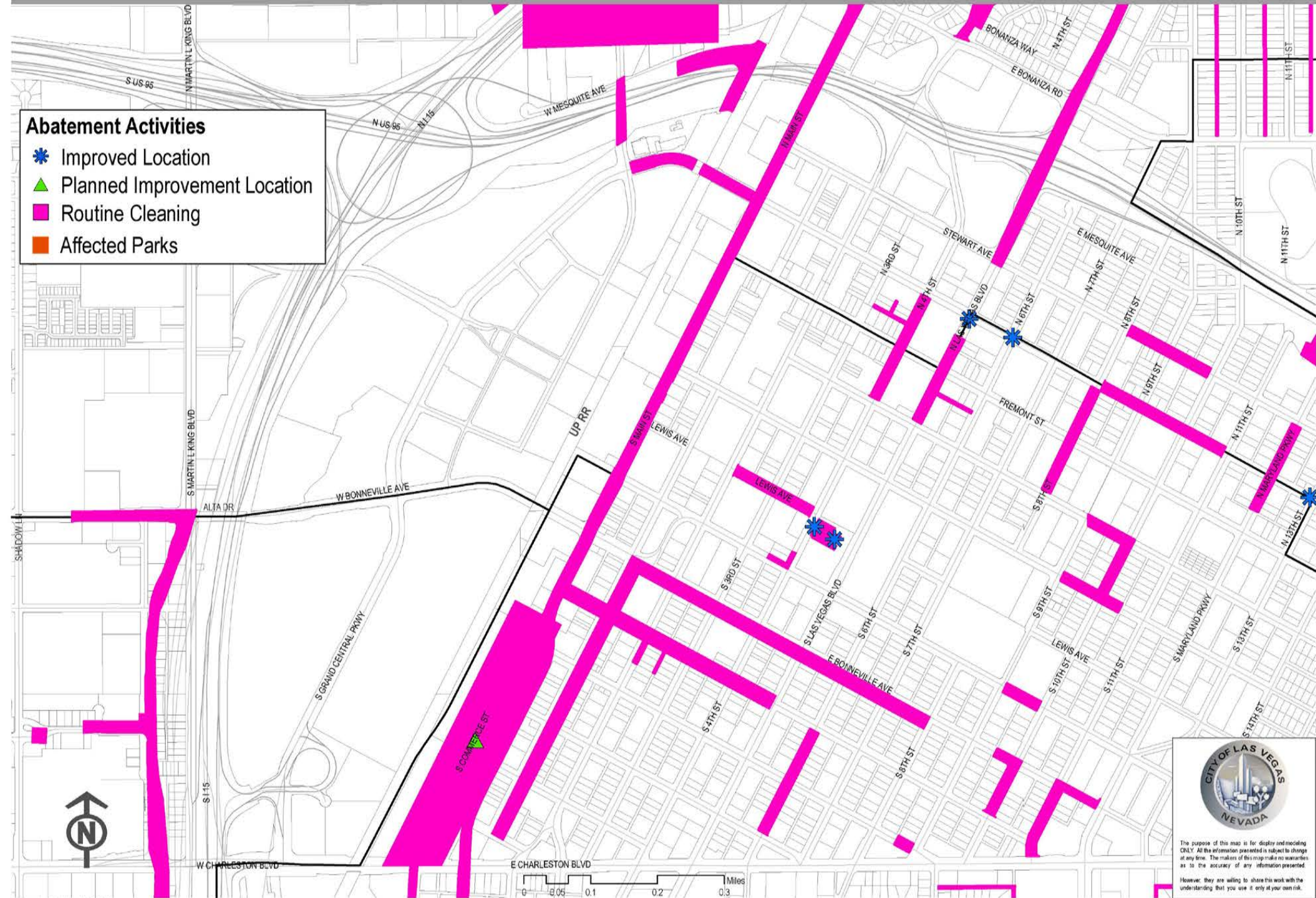
The purpose of this map is for display and printing ONLY. All information presented is subject to change at any time. The nature of this map makes no warranty as to the accuracy of any information presented.

However, they are willing to share the work with the understanding that you use it only at your own risk.

RECENT DOWNTOWN ABATEMENT EFFORTS

Abatement Activities

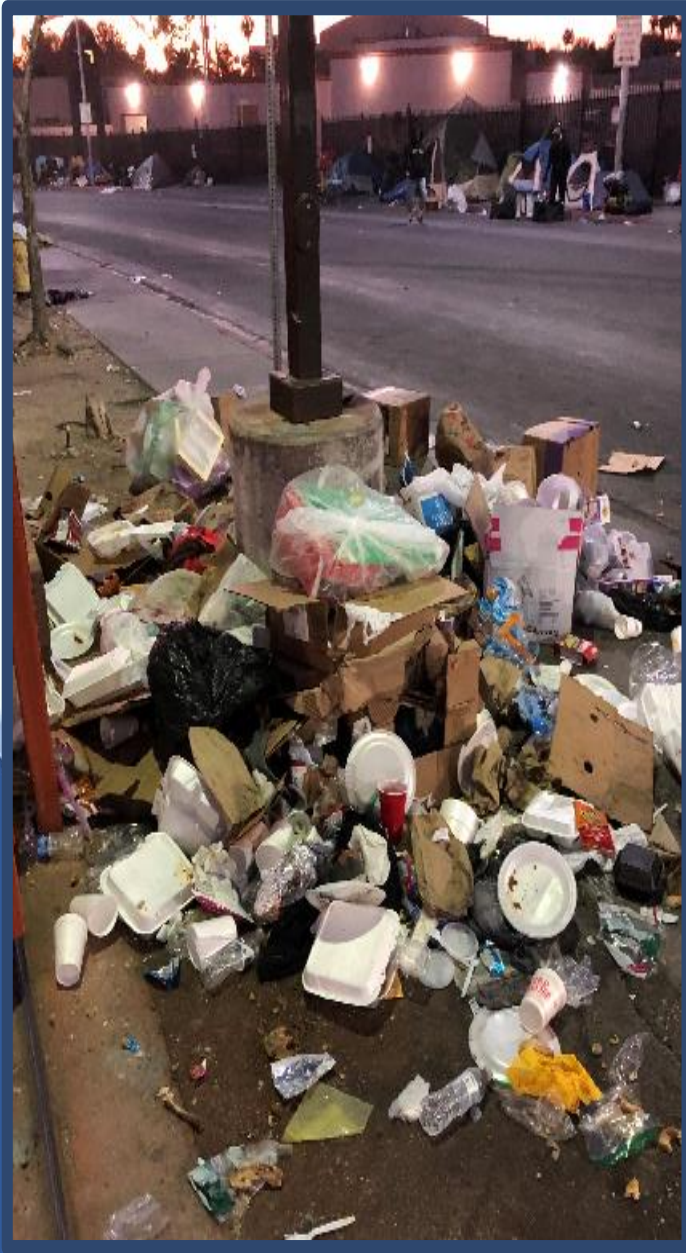
- ★ Improved Location
- ▲ Planned Improvement Location
- █ Routine Cleaning
- Affected Parks



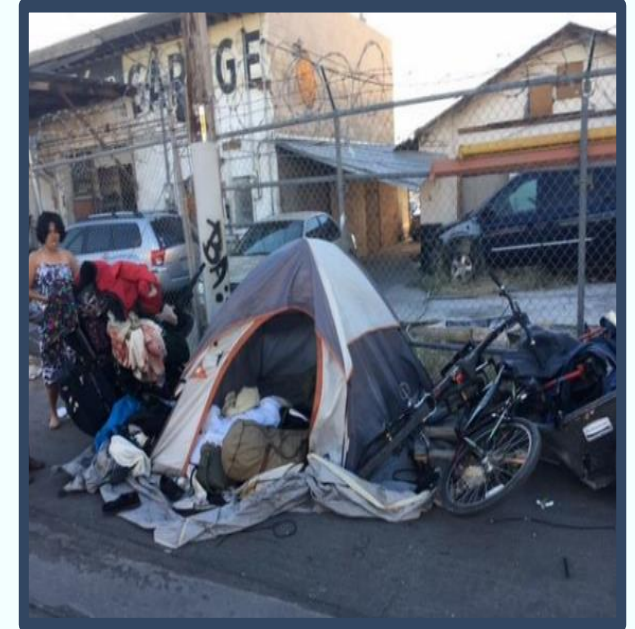
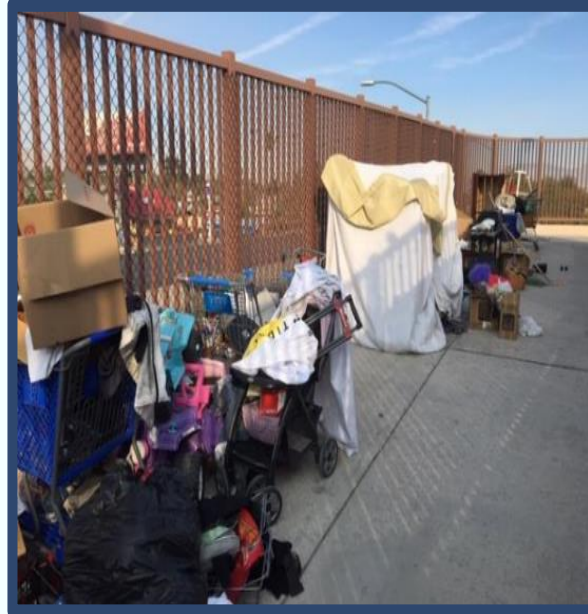
PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: STORM DRAIN SYSTEM



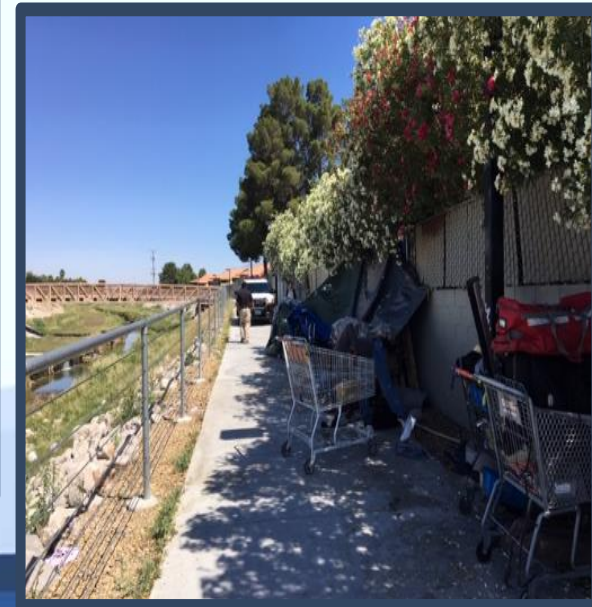
PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: PUBLIC SIDEWALKS



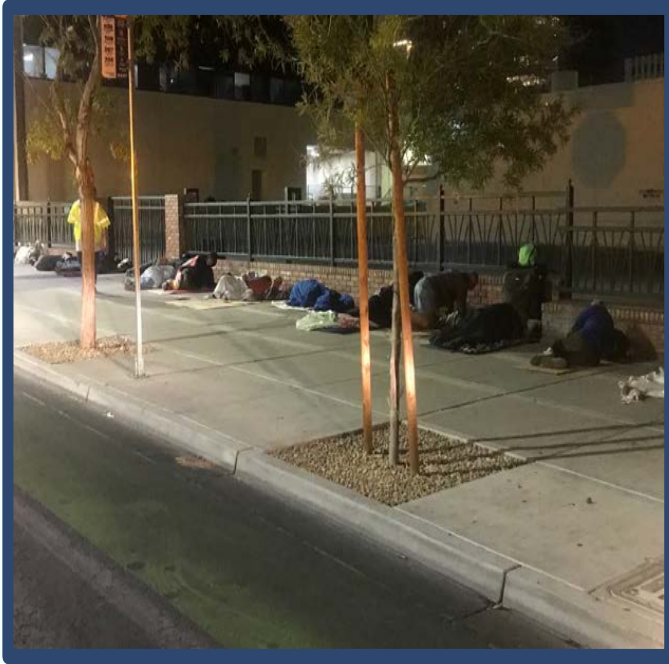
PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: PUBLIC ROADWAYS



PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: RESIDENTIAL AREAS

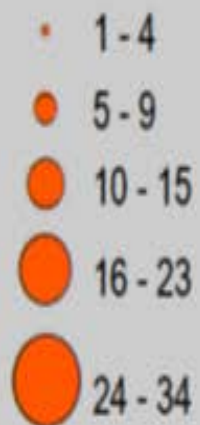


PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: COMMERCIAL AREAS



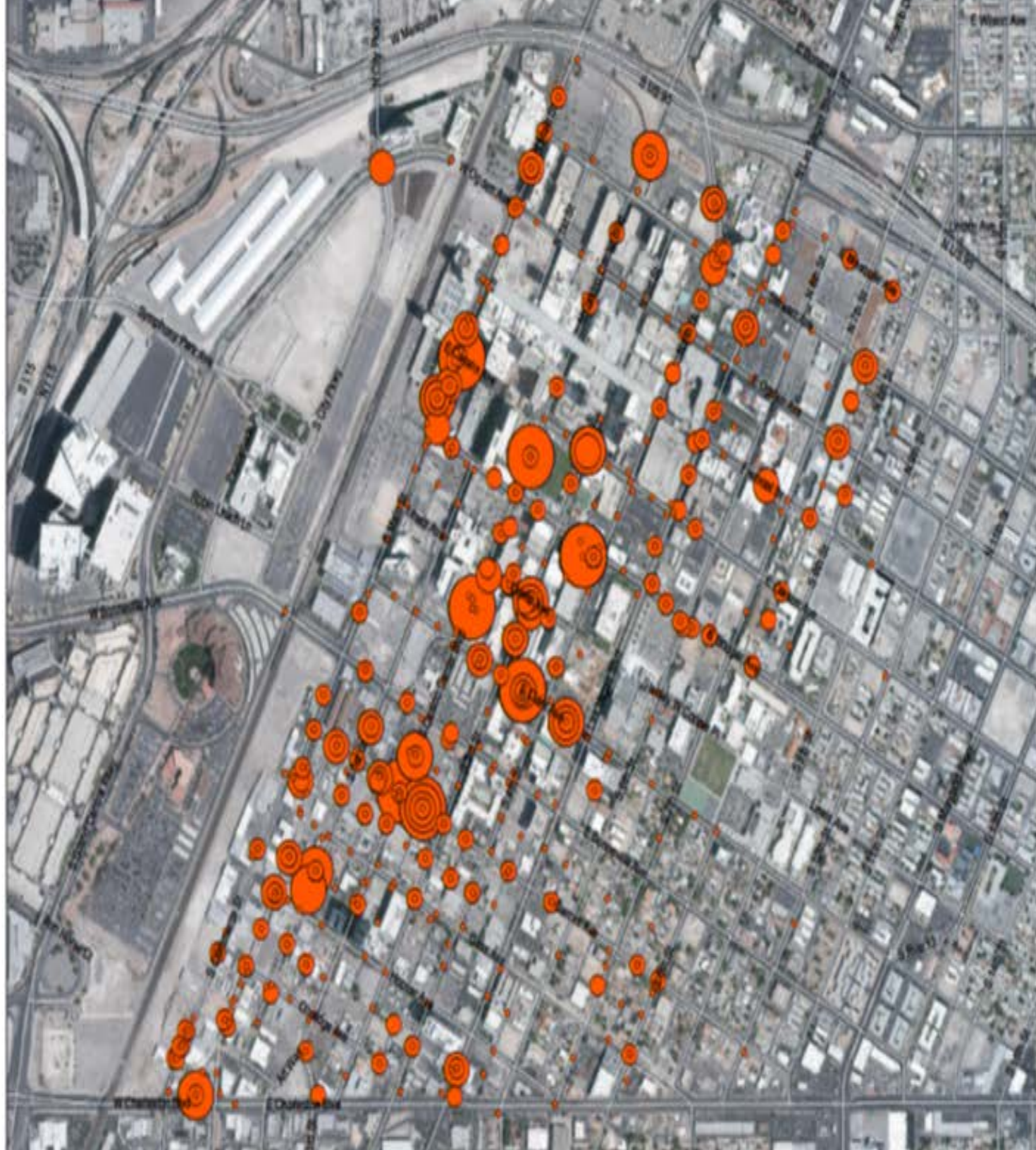
Downtown Las Vegas - Encampment Count

From August 27th
thru September 8th

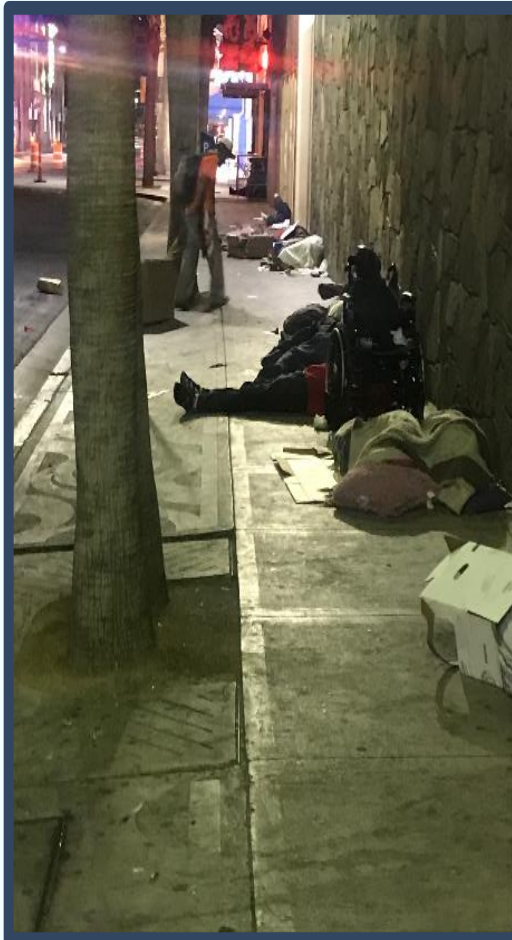
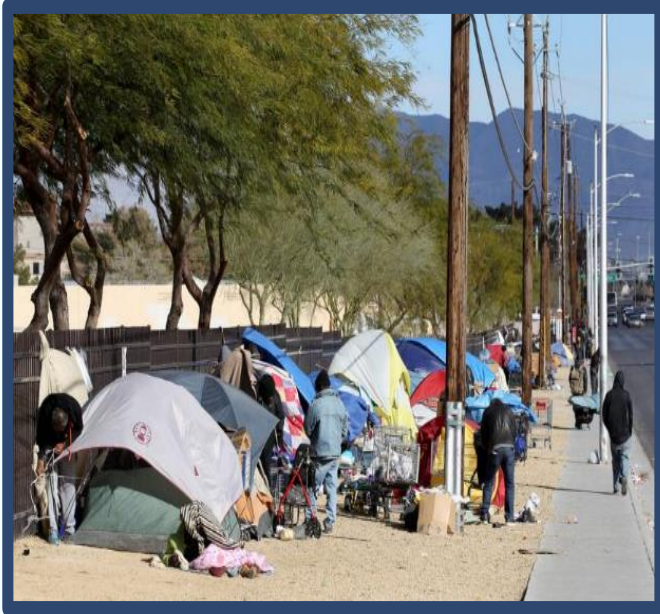


GIS maps are routinely produced
only to meet the needs of the City.
Due to continuous development activity
this map is for reference only.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Questions & Comments 313
702.258.2902



PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE CONCERN: COMMUNITY HEALTH & OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



- Homeless Population: 6/1000
- Infrastructure Maintenance & Liability
- Neighborhood Livability & Property Values
- Commercial Viability
 - 12% of Downtown Land Is Vacant & Undeveloped

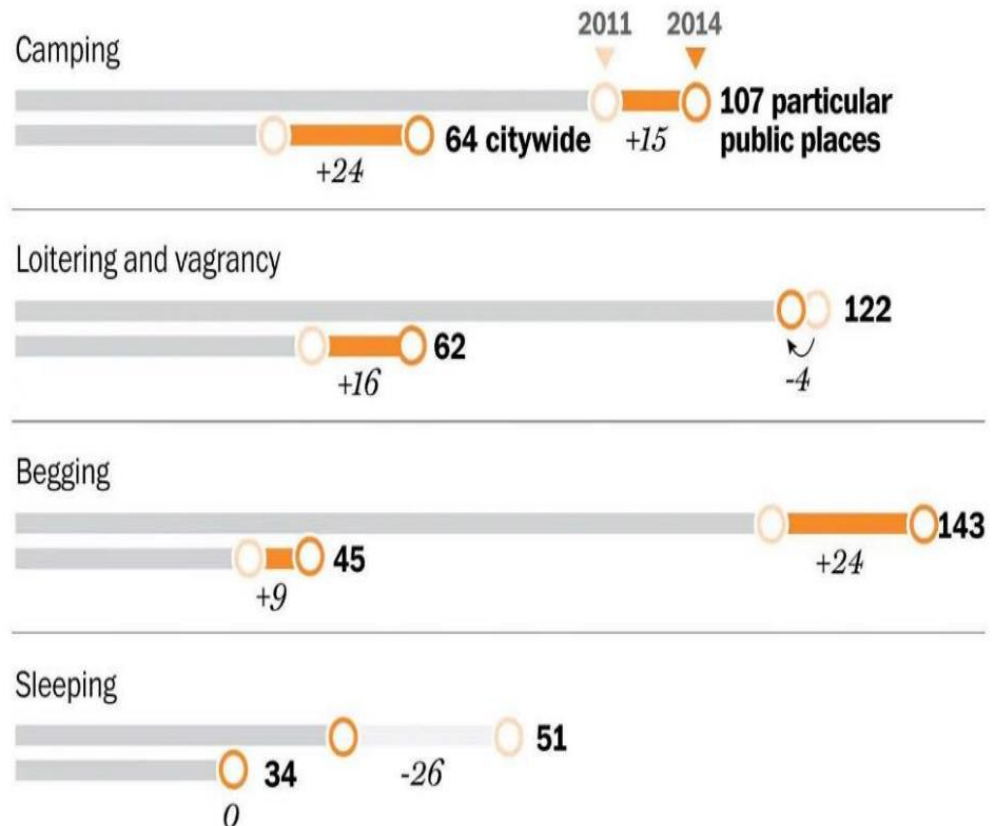


CITYWIDE, ALL PUBLIC PROPERTY & SELECT PUBLIC PROPERTY CAMPING BANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (2014 survey of 187 cities)
 - 64 Citywide Bans
 - 107 All Public Property & Select Public Property Bans
- Complete and Select Bans in 11 U.S. Court Circuits

Homelessness bans across the United States

Since 2006, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty has been surveying 187 U.S. cities to track local ordinances that the center believes target the homeless.



Source: National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
STEPHANIE STAMM/THE WASHINGTON POST

CITYWIDE, ALL PUBLIC PROPERTY & SELECT PUBLIC PROPERTY CAMPING BANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Albany, Georgia	Charlotte, North Carolina	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Mobile, Alabama	Salt Lake City, Utah
Allentown, Pennsylvania	Clearwater, Florida	Ft. Myers, Florida	Montgomery, Alabama	San Antonio, Texas
Amarillo, Texas	Cleveland, Ohio	Hallandale Beach, Florida	Naples, Florida	Santa Fe, New Mexico
Asheville, North Carolina	Colorado Springs, Colorado	Houston, Texas	Nashville, Tennessee	Sarasota, Florida
Athens, Georgia	Columbia, South Carolina	Indianapolis, Indiana	New Haven, Connecticut	Shreveport, Louisiana
Atlanta, Georgia	Columbus, Ohio	Jacksonville, Florida	New Orleans, Louisiana	South Bend, Indiana
Atlantic City, New Jersey	Concord, New Hampshire	Kalamazoo, Michigan	New York, New York	St. Augustine, Florida
Augusta, Georgia	Corpus Christi, Texas	Kansas City, Missouri	Newark, New Jersey	St. Paul, Minnesota
Austin, Texas	Covington, Kentucky	Key West, Florida	Newport, Rhode Island	Suffolk, Virginia
Bangor, Maine	Dallas, Texas	Lafayette, Louisiana	Norwalk, Connecticut	Tampa, Florida
Bettendorf, Iowa	Davenport, Iowa	Lakewood, Colorado	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Topeka, Kansas
Biloxi, Mississippi	Daytona Beach, Florida	Lawrence, Kansas	Orlando, Florida	Trenton, New Jersey
Bloomington, Indiana	Denver, Colorado	Lexington, Kentucky	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Boston, Massachusetts	Des Moines, Iowa	Little Rock, Arkansas	Pierre, South Dakota	Virginia Beach, Virginia
Boulder, Colorado	Dover, Delaware	Louisville, Kentucky	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Wichita, Kansas
Bradenton, Florida	Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Madison, Wisconsin	Pontiac, Michigan	
Brunswick, Georgia	El Paso, Texas	Manchester, New Hampshire	Providence, Rhode Island	
Buffalo, New York	Fall River, Massachusetts	Miami, Florida	Raleigh, North Carolina	
Burlington, Vermont	Fayetteville, Arkansas	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Rapid City, South Dakota	
Charleston, South Carolina	Frederick, Maryland		Rochester, New York	

CAMPING & SLEEPING BANS IN THE 9TH CIRCUIT BEFORE MARTIN V. CITY OF BOISE (2019)

Sleeping or Camping Ban Citywide or on All Public Property

Glendale, Arizona	Mesa, Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona	Scottsdale, Arizona
Tempe, Arizona	Bakersfield, California
El Cajon, California	Long Beach, California
Oakland, California	Redondo Beach, California
Sacramento, California	Santa Barbara, California
Santa Cruz, California	South Lake Tahoe, California
Boise, Idaho	Idaho Falls, Idaho
Pahrump, Nevada	Olympia, Washington
	Spokane, Washington

Sleeping or Camping Ban in Select Public Places

Anchorage, Alaska	Tucson, Arizona
Berkeley, California	Los Angeles, California
Modesto, California	San Diego, California
San Francisco, California	San Jose, California
San Luis Obispo, California	Honolulu, Hawaii
Maui County, Hawaii	Eugene, Oregon
Portland, Oregon	Las Vegas, Nevada
North Las Vegas, Nevada	Reno, Nevada
	Seattle, Washington



BILL 2019-36

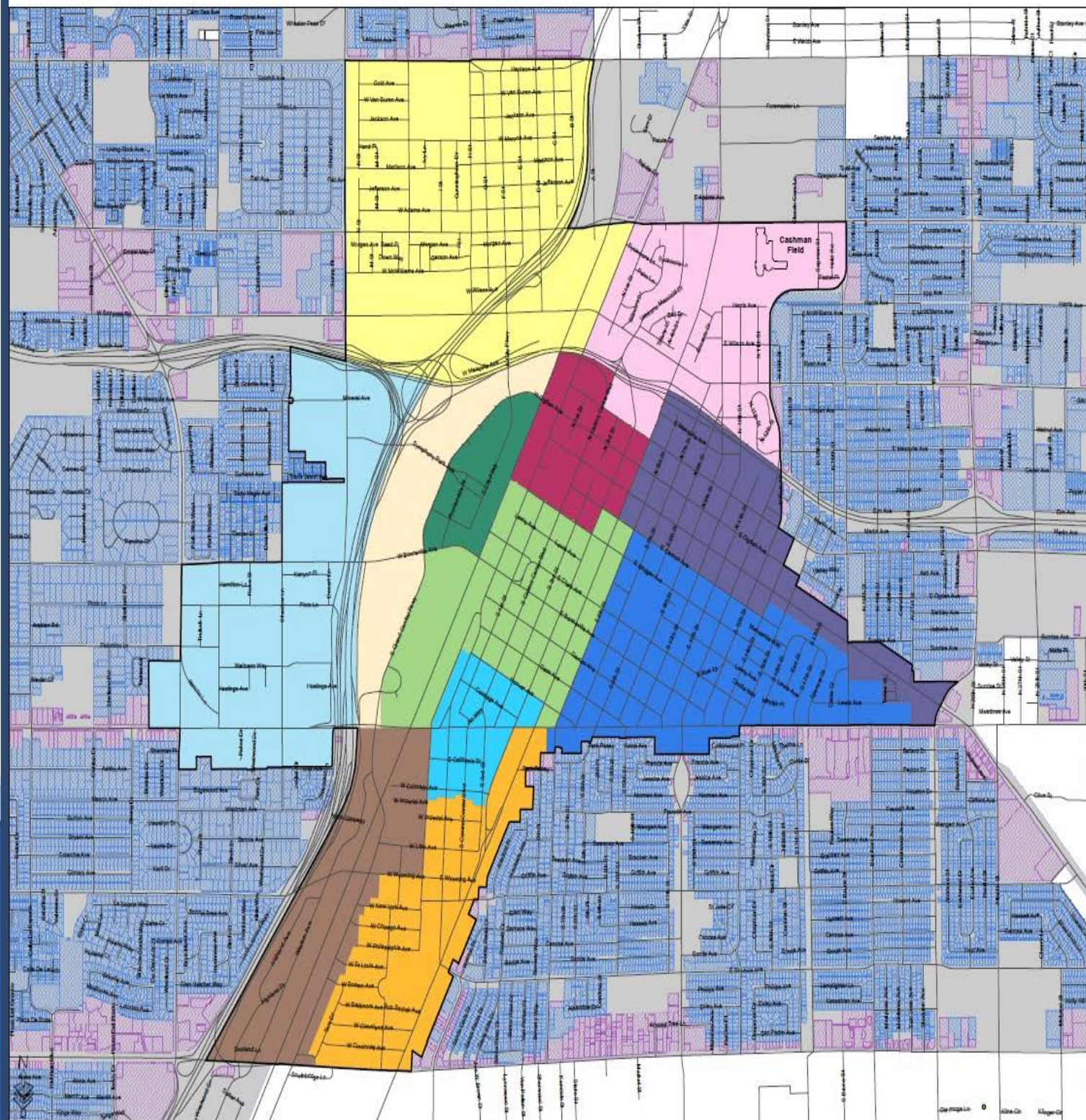
PROPOSED ENCAMPMENT ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF LAS VEGAS

An ordinance generally prohibiting camping, lodging, and similar activities within any right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within specified districts of the city of Las Vegas or within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food processing facility, and to provide for other related matters.



Downtown Master Plan Districts

-  Residential Zoning
-  Multifamily Residential Zoning Allowed With Special Use Permit or Conditional Use in C-1, C-2, C-D, O and P-O Zoning
-  Downtown Master Plan
-  18b Las Vegas Arts District
-  Cashman District
-  Civic & Business District
-  Design District
-  Founders District
-  Fremont East District
-  Gateway District
-  Historic Westside District
-  Las Vegas Medical District
-  Market Corridor District
-  Resort & Casino District
-  Symphony Park District
-  City Limit



0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet



GIS maps are normally produced only to meet the needs of the City. Due to continuous development activity this map is for reference only.
Geographic Information System
Planning & Development Dept.
702-229-6501

Printed: Monday, September 30, 2019

BILL 2019-36

PROHIBITIONS & AFFECTED AREAS

- **Prohibited Conduct within a Public Right-of-Way**
 - Sitting or lying down, including on a blanket, stool, or other object
 - Sleeping outdoors
 - Sleeping or being in a temporary shelter outdoors
 - Cooking over an open flame or fire outdoors
 - Laying down bedding or setting up a tent or similar structure for sleeping or temporary living
- **Public Rights-of-Way Subject to the Ordinance**
 - Located adjacent to property zoned for residential use
 - Located within twelve Downtown Master Plan districts
 - Located within 500 feet of a food processing facility's receiving dock



BILL 2019-36

ENFORCEMENT & EXCEPTIONS

- **Enforcement by Public Safety and Metro**
 - Notify individual that he or she is engaged in prohibited conduct
 - Inform individual that resources are available at the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center
 - Direct individual to a location not subject to the ordinance
- **Exceptions to Citation or Arrest**
 - Violator ceases, within reasonable time, and moves along
 - Medical emergency
 - Use of wheelchair or similar device in right-of-way
 - Patronizing properly permitted business (e.g., outdoor patio)
 - Protected speech: parade, festival, rally, demonstration, meeting
 - Use of chair or bench supplied by abutting private property owner
 - Waiting for public or private transportation
 - Ordinance suspended when shelters reach maximum capacity



COMPARING ORDINANCES

BOISE VS. LAS VEGAS

	Boise's Camping & Disorderly Conduct Ordinances	Las Vegas' Proposed Encampment Ordinance
Citywide Ban	Yes	No
Place or Time Limitations	No	Yes, limited by place
Enforcement Suspended if No Alternative Shelter Available	Yes	Yes
Alternative Shelter includes City Emergency Shelter or Resource Center	No	Yes
Alternative Shelter includes Low-Barrier Shelter or Resource Center	No	Yes
City Affirmatively Declares Alternative Shelters at Capacity	No	Yes

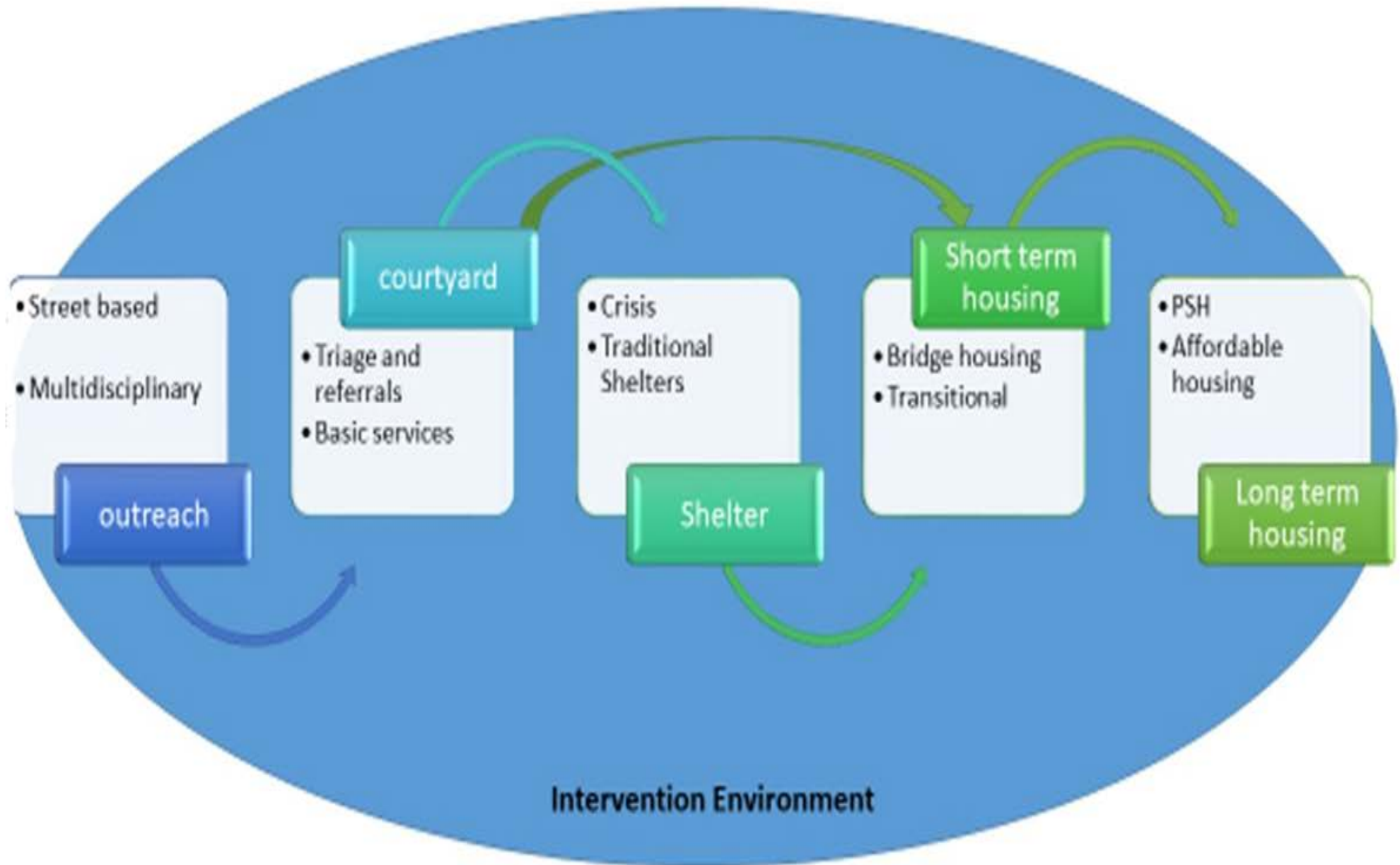


UNAVAILABLE OR NONVIAABLE TOOLS

- Mental Health Laws & Involuntary Commitment
- Transitional Housing
- Portable Toilets & Showers



CONTINUUM OF INTERVENTIONS STRATEGY



CURRENT CITY OF LAS VEGAS EFFORTS

PROACTIVE OUTREACH: MORE TEAMS

- Three Multi-Discipline Teams
- Provides On-site Triage & Diversion
- Brings Agency Resources to Clients
- \$565,200 Annually



CURRENT CITY OF LAS VEGAS EFFORTS

COURTYARD HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER

- Connects Homeless to Services
- Low-Barrier Shelter: Open 24/7
- Accepts Pets, Partners & Possessions
- Optimal Guest Capacity: 300



CITY OF LAS VEGAS EFFORTS

COURTYARD EXPANSION: OPENING 2021

- \$20 Million Capital Project
- \$6 Million Annual Operating Budget
- Optimal Guest Capacity: 800
- Low-Barrier: Open 24/7



FY2019 & FY2020 (JULY-SEPTEMBER)

CITY PROGRAM & SERVICES OUTCOMES

- **Medical & Mental Health**
 - FY19: 234 guests
 - FY20: 55 guests
- **Ticket to Home**
 - FY19: 573 Households
 - FY20: 290 Households
- **Benefits Assistance**
 - FY19: 177 Services
 - FY20: 95 Services
- **Courtyard Overnight Attendance**
 - FY19: 296
 - FY20: 346
- **Rental & Move-In Assistance**
 - FY19: 45 Households
 - FY20: 6 Households
- **Bridge Housing**
 - FY19: 94 Households
 - FY20: 25 Households



CITY OF LAS VEGAS INVOLVEMENT IN REGIONAL EFFORTS

- Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC)
- CoC Working Group
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Regional Diversion Pilot Program
- Assembly Bill (AB) 73 Working Group



ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Misdemeanors
 - Warning, Citation, or Arrest
- Enforcement
 - Metro and City Marshals



ENCAMPMENT ORDINANCE

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

If the Proposed Ordinance Passes Today

- November 10, 2019: Ordinance Effective except Penalty Provisions
- November 10, 2019 – January 31, 2020
 - Signs Posted with New Ordinance Prohibitions
 - MORE Teams & Public Safety Notify Individuals of New Prohibitions
 - Operations & Maintenance Continues Escalated Downtown ROW Cleaning
 - Community Services & Public Safety Refine Implementation & Procedures
 - City Reviews Additional Locations for Shelter Needs

February 1, 2020: Penalty Provisions in Effect



ENCAMPMENT ORDINANCE BILL 2019-36

NOVEMBER 6, 2019



Mayor Goodman
City Government Office
495 South Main Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

November 5, 2019

Subject: Homeless Ordinance – Might further alienate the precise demographic you seek to attract to Downtown

Dear Mayor Goodman,

I am fairly confident that the perspective I will share has not been considered and will not otherwise be presented during the public hearing.

I implore you to thoughtfully consider all the unintended consequences of the proposed Homeless Ordinance. I believe implementing it will not solve any of the problems the City faces with those that are homeless. Moreover, I believe it may actually alienate those very tax-payers and residents that are the key to the city's successful revitalization.

Five years ago, we were were outspoken advocates and champions for life downtown living in a beautiful Penthouse apartment at the Juhl on Bonneville. We moved here from outside of New York City, and as we are self-employed, could choose to live anywhere. We were attracted by the energy, vibrancy and creativity of Downtown Las Vegas. We invited friends from throughout Clark County and outside Nevada to enjoy our stunning 310° views, as we lauded the benefits of living Downtown. With anyone that would listen, we eagerly mapped out the developing landscape of businesses, art, restaurants, entertainment and government buildings. (Even though we also could see the Stratosphere and the North Strip, the highlight was always the nightly wonder of the light show that takes over the façade of this very building - City Hall.)

We loved exploring our new neighborhood and ventured out on foot nearly every day, trying new restaurants, supporting local businesses and meeting our neighbors. Some of our neighbors were less fortunate and experiencing homelessness. Yet they too were part of the familiar faces and rhythm of downtown's energy. I always felt safe walking around, even alone at night. In fact, sometimes my comfort came from one of these familiar faces - knowing that I was not alone, and that we all shared a vested interest in our neighborhood being a safe place.

Three years later, our experience living downtown changed. The single catalyst was one action on the part of City Hall, where the consequences were not properly evaluated. Sometime in 2017, "arm-rests" (bars) were installed on every bench downtown, preventing someone from lying down on any of the benches. Since nothing was done to otherwise alter the situation, those homeless individuals often relocated to the ground adjacent the benches. Now our daily

Submitted at City Council

Date 11/6/19 Item 86062

By: Brooke Feder

walks were slowed by having to often redirect our footsteps around sleeping bodies on the ground. As the temperatures dropped, our conversations and thoughts were interrupted by the sounds of coughing as people took ill. We stopped enjoying our walks.

We wrote to you on April 10, 2017, asking you to please reverse this inhumane, and counterproductive decision. We never received a response.

As our consciences grew heavy, our quality of life downtown deteriorated.

We decided to move out of downtown.

When asked why we had such a turnaround of sentiment about Downtown, we often cited the benches.

We were once the downtown residents you seek to attract.

We were driven away by an ineffective, and poorly thought through action regarding the homeless downtown. Please don't repeat and magnify the offense with another decision that will only make things worse for Downtown.

Jesse Stuart and Brooke Feder
1326 Marshfield Rd., 89135
Formerly 353 E Bonneville Ave, #1401, 89101

Cc:

Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Fiore
Councilman Brian Knudsen
Councilwoman Victoria Seaman

Councilwoman Olivia Diaz
Councilman Stavros S. Anthony
Councilman Cedric Crear



Name
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3

Good Morning

I would like to thank the mayor and city council for this opportunity to address this ordinance being proposed.

I've been a resident of Ward 5, for 16 years.

I live walking distance from either one of the shelters that try to provide for the poor and homeless.

I also have come to know some of these citizens personally and some not so personal. I volunteer my services, feeding the homeless at my house of worship Victory Missionary Baptist church, pastored by Dr. Robert E. Fowler Sr.

My opinion is that this proposal is not practical, and if its not practical it does not make sense.

This to me would create a vicious cycle. That would keep incarcerating citizen and take away of any future at a

Submitted at City Council

Date 11/6/19 Item 602

By: LEONARD MARTIN



Opportunity of employment.

Social Services on Pinto Lane only takes a low number of people Monday through Thursday, if I'm not mistaken.

How about implementing a plan to bring these city services out to where these homeless citizens reside ?

Lets team up with the mental health professionals. Start documentation examine these citizen . Build profiles .

These city ,state ,government properties that can be converted to low income starter housing for those who qualify after going through a program to get them back in society.

Lets not create any new taxes but I'm willing to add a certain amount to exiting taxes, cut out all administration cost.

Look at the marijuana surplus taxes.

JOB 5, 15 - 16 (NIV)

“ He saves the needy from the sword in their mouths: he saves them from the clutches of the powerful. So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth”

SAMPLE: NOT SUBMITTING THIS BUSINESS (4)

ROOMS FOR RENT

LAS VEGAS, NV

SHARE ROOMS START AT \$400.00
SINGLE ROOMS \$500.00 A MONTH

All Bills Free / Free Cable / Free Internet

Females And Couples
Are Welcome

Everyone is invited
to get off the streets

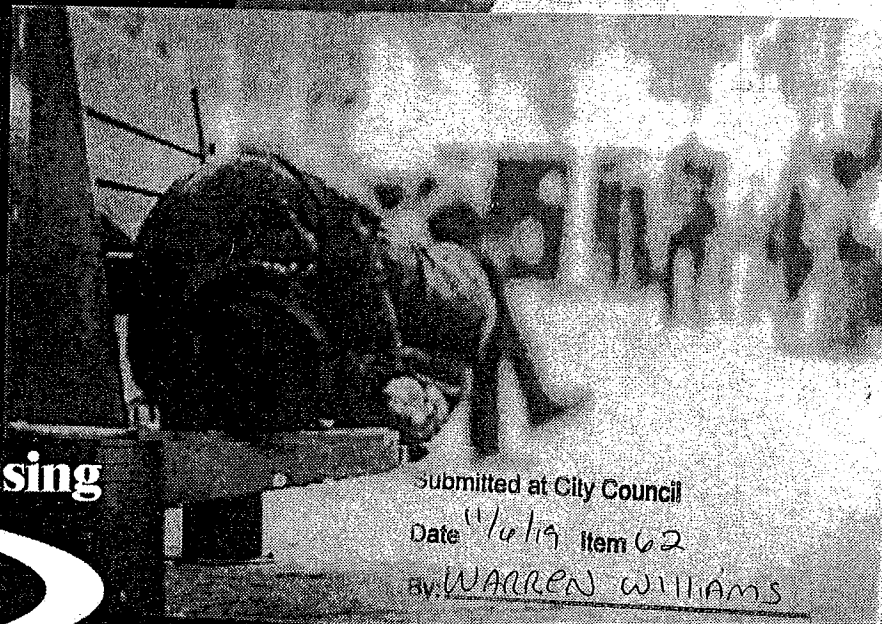
No Credit Checks
No Background Checks
Evictions Do Not Deny Housing

Get a room today.

Our Rooms are Independent Living Only. Not Nursing or Group Homes

24/7 CONTACT
MR CALVIN LESLIE
CELL PHONE 702-542-1277
Email: calvin.leslie@aol.com

C&LM Housing Placement
And Referral Services
NV Business License #
NV20181805414



Submitted at City Council

Date 11/6/19 Item 62

By: WARREN WILLIAMS

SAMPLE
ONLY

Not Recommended or referring
Business named on front

Apply only as a sample
in promoting Business to the
homeless

Rent increases - Late Fees - Storage fees - Utilities - fresh bin

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS
SPEAKER CARD**

DATE: 11/6/2019

AGENDA ITEM/ITEMS #: 62

Cover

Opposing Presentation

If you wish to address the Council, please complete this form and submit it to the City Clerk at the front of Chambers. When the Public Hearing is declared open for your item and the Mayor indicates it is the appropriate time, you may come to the front of Chambers and stand or line up on the applicable side of the microphones, which are identified through signage as to whether you are speaking in support of or against the item. When you are recognized by the Mayor, please come to the microphone and begin by clearly stating and spelling your name for the record. All of your comments should be addressed to the Mayor.

Comments under the first Public Comment portion must be limited to items on the agenda for action. If you wish to speak on an item under the jurisdiction of the Council, but not on the agenda, that opportunity is provided at the end of the agenda under Citizens Participation. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: Warren Goodman

ADDRESS (Optional): _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Optional): _____

All information provided on this card is public information and may be disseminated

Copy and provide to all City Council and Mayor

FM-0384-12-18

Sent email this morning to Mayor Goodman - Volunteer to be part of "Quality Living Special Committee"

- ✓ Recommend have some way to show which items being discussed outside in hallway - no where to charge phones - between seats no walking space
- ✓ Attached are notes I will speak on and for record on item #62
- ✓ Intend to later submit a work in progress video and complete suggestions. Due to technical problems and other matters, unable to complete on time to submit today.

Answers to questions

1-95 to full every night

before Martin City of Goods

Original ~~of~~ traditionally prior to NOTES
Vigency laws - made to make
illegal to move about and be homeless - ①
and poverty -

The ordinance proposed today suggest
Government is ~~wasting~~ choosing not to
progress with humane issues - instead
remain in the old ways of punishing
the disadvantaged.

50/50 for and opposed this ~~item~~ ordinance
to resolve the ~~concerns~~ of public
health agree solutions are needed -
offer ~~that~~ on rational sensible grounds
criminalizing - homelessness is inhumane -
and not practical solution - considering
future of the mass unemployed
by AI ~~the~~ replacing human jobs -
that will multiply homelessness -

For the homeless disadvantaged
those in poverty - their most
immediate dream is a new start
for a second chance to ~~improve~~ better their
quality of living.

I ask our Government to adopt
their dream - what is the rush

to review urgency and
those without shelter or at risk of
losing it. Instead I ask you to
trash this ordinance proposed and
to work with all those who want
humane methods to resolve concerns
to end homelessness - and public health
concerns ~~take all speakers' written statements as part~~

1. Form special "Quality Living" Committee
Homeless, Rush of it, Psychology, Budget
experts, Rooming business, Network ^{donors}
service providers, clergy - all
others - invite speakers to be part of the
committee

2. Rooming Business - Standardize -
\$400 shared \$500 single - Network
Property Owners - Recruiters of homeless -
train homeless to be house managers -
sponsors, donors - etc - plan long term
replace shelters, missions with rooms
for homeless -

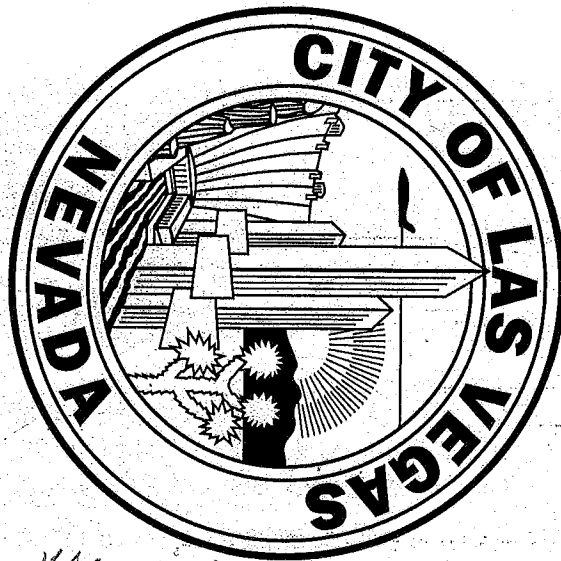
3. Art Shelters / 14. ^{special} Evictions / 30 days / 15. ~~shelters~~ ^{preventing} ~~the~~ worse
services those at risk

4. Care Mediators - Who make rounds
to get to know people - present needs / ^{concerns}

5. Make illegal stigmatizing - Citizens homeless -

6. Realizing City could be contributing to homeless
getting killed or massacred - Security guard - storm drain

CITY OF LAS VEGAS
495 S. MAIN ST.
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

POSTMASTER:
CONTAINS DATED MATERIAL
REQUESTED BY ADDRESSEE

3

- Las Vegas, Nevada

Founder of Quality Living & Right
Ministries for World Peace, Universal
Justice and Fairness for ALL

Research adopt what other cities doing right -

3. Living Wage - Refine -
Wage that provides Quality Living -
9. Solutions -
House Ministries -
Pastor Trey - Maryland &
Dewek's Hotel - and
Flammar

10. UBI Universal Basic Income -
Rental Assistance - Social Services -
Training for Security Guards - AT BTC -

11. Rude - not private property - public
Accommodation, 30 minutes phone charge -
12. Accountability to donations - Billions
given specifically to care for those
in need, in risk of homelessness -

13. Micro Home & Parks - for anyone -

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

Bill No. 2019-36 - For possible action - An ordinance generally prohibiting camping, lodging, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property, within specified districts of the city of Las Vegas, or within five hundred feet of any receiving dock of a food processing facility. Sponsored by: Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman

Attendance List:

CAROLYN GOODMAN, Mayor

MICHELE FIORE, Mayor Pro Tem

JEFF DOROCK, Deputy City Attorney

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER

STAVROS ANTHONY, Councilman

BRAD JERBIC, City Attorney

VICTORIA SEAMAN, Councilwoman

JERRY WALKER, Director of Operations and Maintenance

CEDRIC CREAM, Councilman

LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Chief Community Services Officer

STACEY CAMPBELL, Chief Deputy City Clerk

BRIAN KNUDSEN, Councilman

OLIVIA DIAZ, Councilwoman

JOEL LOIZA, resident of Las Vegas, Nevada

CHRIS KAEMPFER, 1980 Festival Plaza Drive

GARY PECK, 1045 Morning Sun Way

CHUCK CALLOWAY, Director of Intergovernmental Services for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

LIEUTENANT HATCHETT, MORE homeless outreach

JOEY LANKOWSKI, resident of 89123

LUANN HOLMES, City Clerk

SCOTT NICOLAS, Vice President of Las Vegas Police Protective Association

DANNY KEENE, South Casino Center Boulevard

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

31 CAROLYN WHEELER, resident of Councilwoman Seaman's district and appeared on behalf of
32 the Downtown Vegas Alliance
33 DONNA WEST, resident of Clark County
34 PATRICK HUGHES, resident of Ward 3 and President and CEO of the Fremont Street
35 Experience
36 WILL PREGMAN, 11652 Terenzio Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89183
37 LEX ANDERSON, 3709 Waterhole Street
38 KATIE KRICKORIAN, resident of Ward 5
39 DAVID GAYON
40 LESLIE TURNER, resident of Ward 5
41 DAVID SCHWIEND, resident of Las Vegas
42 DEJA WARO-COLE, resident of 89110, student, veteran, and organizer for Battle Born Progress
43 PATRICIA MESSINGER, resident of Ward 5 and Former Candidate for Ward 5 Councilperson
44 TIMOTHY ELIADO resident of Ward 1
45 CINDY PARKER, resident of 89134
46 LEAH JUSTINE AIRD
47 DAVE DOZLICH, Director of Government Affairs for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of
48 Commerce
49 D'ANTHONY BRIMM, resident of North Las Vegas
50 RENÉE BOORMAN, resident of Paradise Palms
51 MARIA TERESA LIEBERMAN, 4540 Standing Bluff Way, Ward 4
52 JANE KATEN, on behalf of a business owner on 4th Street in downtown Las Vegas
53 HILLARY KLOPFER, on behalf of a business owner on 4th Street in downtown Las Vegas
54 TIMOTHY UNDERWOOD, resident
55 RAYMOND FLETCHER, resident of Ward 1
56 LYNN BOLAND, resident of Ward 5
57 STEVEN DEMPSEY, We Are Change Las Vegas
58 BRICEIDA CASTRO, resident of unincorporated Las Vegas and Economic Justice Organizer
59 with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
60 ASBURY EDENS, resident of 89122

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

61 WILLIAM DRENNAN, 4th and Clark
62 CURTIS MENIFEE, resident of Ward 5
63 ANNETTE WALKER, resident of 89107, Ward 1
64 MARGARET OAKS, resident of Summerlin and retired Professor of Social Work at UNLV
65 BRANDON SCIENSKI, resident of 89101
66 JUSTIN JONES, County Commissioner, resident of 89178
67 DAYVID FIGLER, 1302 South 6th Street
68 JOSE MACIAS, resident of Las Vegas, 89108
69 ALMA ROMO, resident of Ward 4 and the Nevada State Coordinator with Mi Familia Vota
70 JORDAN BIRD, resident of 89031
71 ERICA CASTRO, resident of Las Vegas
72 JONAS RAND, resident of unincorporated Paradise, Clark County
73 JACKIE CHALKLISS, resident of 89117
74 MICHAEL SWECKER, resident of Henderson, Nevada and President of Care Complex
75 NYA AYALA, resident of East Las Vegas
76 JIM CARROWAY
77 WARREN WILLIAMS, resident of Las Vegas and Founder of Quality Living Do Right
78 Ministries for World Peace, Universal Justice and Fairness for All
79 GABRIELLE D'AYR resident of Clark County, United States Navy veteran, and homeless
80 MARILYN WHITAKER, homeless
81 MEGAN ORTIZ, resident of North Las Vegas, Nevada, 89081
82
83 [4:47:33 – 8:57:23] (4 hours, 9 minutes, 50 seconds)
84
85 Typed by: Speechpad.com
86 Proofed by: Ashley Foster

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

87 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

88 Okay, everyone, we're ready to proceed.

89

90 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

91 Yeah, I want you to go look. Just not (inaudible)-

92

93 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

94 Before I knock everything over here. Okay, and City Attorney, if you will please read the bill.

95

96 **JEFF DOROCAK**

97 Yep.

98

99 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

100 And this is Agenda Item 62.

101

102 **JEFF DOROCAK**

103 Correct. Item No. 62, Mayor, Bill No. 2019-36, an ordinance generally to prohibit camping,
104 lodging, and similar activities within any public right-of-way adjacent to residential property,
105 within specified districts of the City of Las Vegas or within 500 feet of any receiving dock of a
106 food processing facility and to provide for other related matters.

107 In addition, Mayor, I have distributed a proposed First Amendment with a couple of changes that
108 the staff presentation will talk about towards the end and also, with your indulgence, some
109 direction on what we're gonna do here. The staff presentation is pretty thorough, and it's going to
110 include multiple staff members speaking, so we would request each Council member to hold off
111 on questions, just write 'em down on the PowerPoint that I distributed, and we will take those
112 questions at the end of the presentation. Following staff's presentation and questions from City
113 Council, anyone who has not yet participated in public comment will be permitted to come back
114 up and will be granted a minute, just like the morning speakers were.

115 And then finally, additional questions at that point will be permitted. That will keep everything
116 orderly. And with that, we're ready to go.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

117 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

118 Ma'am, we've waited till the end so we could speak longer. That's what you said, Mayor. Yes

119

120 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

121 Well, maybe I did. I don't know.

122

123 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

124 Not true.

125

126 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

127 No, you didn't.

128

129 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

130 We've been waiting here for hours. I'm bailing on work for this.

131

132 **MAYOR PRO TEM**

133 You said you speak now or (inaudible)-

134

135 **JEFF DOROCAK**

136 At your discretion, you can increase the amount of time, Mayor.

137

138 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

139 Okay. I would have to, to my recollection I do believe I did say that, and I would grant you only

140 because we've had such a long morning and this is gonna be lengthy, I am going to agree to that

141 and give you each two minutes. So if you're preparing and if you're going to be repetitious of

142 each other exactly or much of what we heard this morning, I'd ask you to get representatives so

143 that you're making your new points well. But you have the prerogative, and we will have a two-

144 minute time. But again, stating your name, if you would, and where you live. So thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

145 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

146 If we already turned in a card?

147

148 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

149 Thank you, you are correct. Pardon?

150

151 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

152 If we already turned in a card this morning, stating they didn't get up earlier-

153

154 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

155 No, you're right. What I said this morning was if you speak this morning, you will not speak in
156 the public hearing of this particular bill. So-

157

158 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

159 Madam Mayor, I have her card. Don't let her do that. Don't let her talk to you through the, 'cause
160 then everybody-

161

162 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

163 (Inaudible) our name being called (inaudible)-

164

165 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

166 Oh that. No, you'll be able to speak since you didn't speak. Yes. Okay, please if you would.

167 Pardon? What did you say?

168

169 **BRAD JERBIC**

170 Thank you.

171

172 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

173 Oh, and Councilman Victoria Seaman, Ward 2, are you with us?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

174 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

175 I am.

176

177 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

178 Thank you very much. Hope your weather's good. It's beautiful here.

179

180 **BRAD JERBIC**

181 Welcome, Councilwoman.

182

183 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

184 (Inaudible).

185

186 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

187 Okay.

188

189 **BRAD JERBIC**

190 Mayor and members of Council-

191

192 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

193 So we're gonna hear-

194

195 **BRAD JERBIC**

196 -Brad Jerbic on behalf of the City Attorney's Office. They're gonna have several speakers today.

197 I'm going to open, and then I'm going to speak at the end. Jeff Dorocak is going to address the

198 merits of the ordinance itself, how it got drafted, how it fits with the Boise decision that came out

199 last year. You're gonna hear from Jerry Walker regarding serious problems with the City

200 infrastructure that are impacted by this issue. You're also gonna hear from Dr. Lisa Morris

201 Hibbler on – her take on this issue as well.

202 This is a very, very, very complicated issue, one that cannot be distilled into we need more

203 bathrooms, we need more transitional housing, we need more this. We all know that. If it were

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

204 that easy, we wouldn't be sitting here right now. We're going to address every one of these
205 issues, but I want to begin with a story.

206 A couple years ago, I had the privilege of accompanying Patrick Hughes and other people on a
207 tour of Catholic Charities, and they did a wonderful job over there. They are just a remarkable
208 service to our community and to homeless members of our community. And after the tour, I
209 looked at the Assistant Director and I asked him, I said, "You know, I've got a couple of
210 questions. During the recession, when people lost their homes, sometimes for no good reason at
211 all, 'cause they lost their job too, your numbers must have gone through the ceiling." And they
212 said, "You're right, they did."

213 And I said, "So now that we're living in what everybody calls record low unemployment, your
214 numbers have got to be going down." And he said, "No, they're going up just as fast."

215 And, I mean, I was dumbstruck by that answer and shocked. And I asked him why, and he gave
216 an answer that I think is at the center of so much of this. His answer was they're not paying a
217 living wage.

218 So imagine this. You're not on the street. You're actually in Catholic Charities. You're actually
219 training. You're working in a program. You have all the hope in the world that when you get out,
220 you're gonna get a job. And then you get that job, and that job doesn't pay enough to put a roof
221 over your head. That is crushing emotionally, psychologically. And it is really, in my opinion,
222 one of the things that's a root of this problem.

223 In Las Vegas, Nevada, today, \$18 an hour is a living wage. That's just to barely stay alive with a
224 roof over your head. In Los Angeles, California, it's \$48 an hour, and in other cities it's up to \$75
225 an hour. Who makes this kind of money? Nobody. Nobody.

226 So because we haven't had wages keeping up with the cost of housing, there are a lot of things
227 that fold into this homeless argument. You have some people that are substance addicted, alcohol
228 or drugs. You have other people, almost 50 percent, according to Kathi Thomas-Gibson, self-
229 identify as mentally ill. You have another group of people that fold themselves neatly into the
230 homeless batch that probably could work but choose to not. There's, don't –, I'm talking.

231 I'm just saying this is an incredibly complicated issue. And so to look at it, you have to look at
232 every single piece of it. You have to look at the mental ill component. You have to look at the
233 people that are on the streets versus in the shelter component. You have to look at the quality of

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

234 the shelters, and you have to look at what you're going to get there. And then at the end of the
235 day, you have to look at people call it transitional housing, call that affordable housing, call it
236 workforce housing. Call it what you want, it's the same thing. It's an affordable roof over your
237 head. And that's where everybody needs to be at the end of the day.

238 And I don't think there's a person in this audience and not a person in this room that doesn't
239 understand that and accept that and want that to be our goal. That is absolutely the goal.

240 Kathi Thomas-Gibson, who's become a hero of mine, says something that I also really like. She
241 says, "I don't wake up every day inspired by the thought of managing the homeless issue. I wake
242 up every day with the thought of ending the homeless issue."

243 And I think that is – an absolute attitude that I think all of us should have. But the road to ending
244 doesn't start with wishful thinking, and it doesn't start with ignoring why we're here and what is
245 the problem.

246 And I want to talk about numbers just a little bit, because a lot of people put out numbers, and
247 depending on who you read, you'll read different numbers. And I'm gonna talk about those in the
248 second. But it doesn't take a lot to sit in my office or in your office, Mayor, or in anybody else's
249 office, who's in charge of running the city, including Jerry Walker, who is in charge of Operation
250 and Maintenance, cleaning everything here, to know that the calls for assistance, the calls
251 because we have an enormous explosion of homeless camps in the downtown area that probably
252 have occurred because of this wage disparity and a lot of other reasons. I'm not blaming people
253 for it. But I am saying it is a real problem.

254 And downtown, our businesses aren't like other businesses. Our businesses around town have
255 parking lots and sidewalks and huge setbacks. But downtown, our businesses are the property
256 line. You open the front door, you step right onto the sidewalk. That is the property line. If that
257 becomes an area that you can camp, that business dies. Every residence in the city, can you
258 imagine anybody wanting a tent on the sidewalk in front of their house or what that would do to
259 their neighborhood and their own property value? The very people who are trying to make
260 money, whose portion of that money is taxed to provide homeless services, are at the end of the
261 day without the ability to even pay their own taxes 'cause they've lost their house or they've lost
262 their business.

263 These are real things. They're not imaginary things. And so while I respect very much the

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

264 ACLU, Mr. Figler, other people that have legal and strong and ethical, you know, objections to
265 some of this, I get that and I respect that and they'll still be my friends.

266 But we have got an issue, and we get calls every day. And the amount of money that Jerry
267 Walker is gonna go into that we spend on it, just our storm drains alone and what is filling them.
268 You know what happens when you have a flood? That water goes down a storm drain. And you
269 know what happens to that water? It goes right to Lake Mead. And you know what happens if
270 there's feces and defecation and urination in that? It goes right to Lake Mead untreated by the
271 wastewater treatment plant. It goes right into your drinking supply. That's what happens when
272 things go down storm drains as opposed to sanitary sewers.

273 What happens when these things are clogged up? Then you have a flood. That water that you see
274 neatly going down the street, going down those little channels under the sidewalk, all of a sudden
275 backs up because it doesn't flow anymore.

276 These are just practical things. Nobody can disagree with this. They have to be functional. They
277 have to be operational.

278 But let's talk about the numbers. People talk about homelessness and whether it's gone down or
279 gone up. I got an article from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, which are
280 here today and welcome to the City Council meeting. But one of their statistics was that
281 homelessness has gone down in Clark County for the last two years. And I said, "Wow, that's
282 impressive. It sure doesn't look like it. The phone calls have gone up. The reports for service
283 have gone up. The calls have gone up. Everything else has gone up." And then somebody gave
284 me an answer.

285 Let me go ahead to this. I'm gonna go back to that other one.

286 If you look at this bullet point, this is from the Review Journal. I'll read a few of these. The
287 second from the bottom. A federal guideline implemented in last year's count, estimated that
288 each tent, those are street tents, people living on the street in a tent, spotted contains 1.21 people,
289 rather than the 3.12 people used in previous years.

290 You change the matrix, you drop the count by 40 percent. It didn't go down. The way you
291 counted went, changed. If you applied that same matrix to the previous years, then maybe we
292 could compare apples to apples. Maybe let's go back to 2015 or 2010 or 2000 and say, what
293 would happen if we counted 1.21 people like they did before? What's the trend?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

294 Here's the trend. This is what's reported on the left-hand side, a 9 percent decrease in the number
295 of individuals counted during the point-in-time census between 2018 and 2019, and that looks
296 like it's going down. But then again, how do you measure it?

297 But then you look at that number of individuals expecting chronic homelessness, chronic
298 homelessness, it's very different. It's increased by 19 percent since 2016. So I want you to be a
299 little skeptical of numbers when you hear them. I know that what we hear from the Police
300 Department, from our Marshals, from our people that are in charge of keeping our streets clean
301 and sanitary and walkable shows that this problem is not getting better. It's getting worse. And
302 again, I reiterate we all have an obligation to do everything on every front to combat it.
303 When we get later in the presentation, I'm gonna come back and I'm gonna talk about mental
304 illness, what we do, what we don't do, and how that works and how, what it takes to get Legal
305 2000 in the state of Nevada, that is incarcerated or – put in a mental institution because you have
306 a mental health issue. I'm gonna talk about toilets and why we don't have Port-a-Potties on the
307 streets. I'm gonna talk about all the other issues that have been talked about this morning.
308 But right now, I think the most important thing is to get the facts. And that's Jeff Dorocak. Jeff
309 Dorocak is Deputy City Attorney in our office, who authored this law.

310

311 **JEFF DOROCAK**

312 Brad, it will be Jerry up first. Jerry will go first.

313

314 **BRAD JERBIC**

315 I'm sorry?

316

317 **JEFF DOROCAK**

318 Jerry Walker will go first, Jerry Walker.

319

320 **BRAD JERBIC**

321 Oh, I'm sorry. I got them out of order. So Jerry Walker did not author this, but Jerry Walker is
322 here. He's in charge of Operation and Maintenance for the City. He's the Director of that
323 department. And I spent some time with Jerry a couple of weeks ago, and I've done this many

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

324 times, 'cause I'm downtown all the time now with our downtown project, and looking at every
325 camp in the downtown area, in West Las Vegas, the Rescue Mission, the homeless corridor, you
326 name it. But he's here to tell you what's going on with the infrastructure in the City of Las Vegas.

327

328 **JERRY WALKER**

329 Do you have the clicker, Brad?

330

331 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

332 And if you, Mr. Walker, if you could figure out which microphone or both, we can turn them on
333 and if you'd (inaudible), so you are speaking into them, 'cause any time you turn your head, we
334 lose what you're saying. Okay.

335

336 **JERRY WALKER**

337 Thank you. Just had to get the clicker back.

338

339 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

340 Thank you.

341

342 **JERRY WALKER**

343 I am Jerry Walker, Director of Operations and Maintenance for the City of Las Vegas. As the
344 name implies, that department provides for the majority of operational and maintenance
345 requirements for the public infrastructure.

346 Our current cumulative replacement value for our public infrastructure is \$10 billion, and so this
347 is a big task. It is critical that we provide for proper operational and maintenance considerations.

348 Both for operational considerations, also fiscal considerations, that if we don't manage our
349 infrastructure, then we can accrue huge liabilities through deferred maintenance and liability
350 considerations.

351 We have a variety of concerns resulting from our activities. I will note that the Operations and
352 Maintenance Department does not directly address the social issues which we're talking about
353 today. We are not part of the departments that provides for the wide variety of services for those

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

354 in need. Rather we're just the guys out in the field addressing the problems and the consequences
355 and the symptoms that result from urban encampments and other associated activities.

356 The concerns we have to begin with, and this has been a big media topic for the last few years,
357 are disease controls. And so certain encampment considerations will lead to disease concerns.

358 First off, would be sanitary condition. If we have huge piles of trash, if we have body waste, if
359 we have putrescent waste, if we have those things occurring, then they result in certain diseases
360 or can result in certain disease-related outbreaks. Those include staph infections, antibiotic-
361 resistant staph infections, also known as MRSA, hepatitis A, Bartonella quintana, which is also
362 known as trench fever based on World War I outbreaks, Shigella, tuberculosis, and typhoid. And
363 so we routinely clean out encampment related areas, trying to stay in front of that.

364 A second concern would be vector control, and vector control is the containment of animals or
365 insects or birds which spread infectious diseases. And so in Las Vegas we have three primary
366 concerns. First would be rodents. We don't have a huge rodent population. However, other places
367 that have allowed those to develop in association with the sanitary conditions have had typhus
368 outbreaks. And so we need to make sure we stay on top of the rodent control for typhus.

369 Pigeons, we have lots of pigeons in the Valley. They're not normally a problem. But if we have
370 concentration encampments, then the fecal contaminants from the pigeons create cleanup
371 requirements which now invoke contact and airborne disease considerations.

372 We're all familiar with the mosquito requirement concerns that are going up in the Valley and so
373 a growing issue in the City of Las Vegas. We spend a huge amount of the summer trying to keep
374 every little puddle dry so as not to be a mosquito breeding source. The diseases currently
375 associated with mosquito concerns in the City of Las Vegas or the Southern Nevada area include
376 West Nile virus, Zika virus, and St. Louis encephalitis.

377 Finally, we have drug paraphernalia related diseases, and by that I mean primarily needles. And
378 wherever we have unsheathed needles, then that brings blood-borne pathogens into play for park
379 users, for our staff that are cleaning up. For people on the sidewalk, just an unsheathed needle
380 creates that danger. Blood-borne pathogen diseases include hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

381 Again, we've been very lucky in that we have not had a major outbreak. Large part that is due to
382 our proactive efforts on keeping things clean. We have, over the summer though, there was a
383 hepatitis A outbreak in Southern Nevada, as reported by the Southern Nevada Health District,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

384 and hepatitis A is – one of the most chronic problems associated with these concerns. Again,
385 preventative cleaning, preventative maintenance on the encampments is critical to keep this in
386 check.

387 I do have on the slide in front of you a series of media reports from the last couple of years.

388 Other entities who are not as proactive are suffering problems, and better that we never suffer
389 those. An ounce of prevention in this case is definitely worth the investment.

390 Other concerns we have are fire hazards and emergency service demands. City Fire Marshal
391 reports that we have over 100 callouts for encampment-related fires on an annual basis. That is
392 the majority of fire-related callouts. And so when those callouts come, the fires that initiate on
393 the basis encampment activities put at risk not only the residents of that encampment. They also
394 put at risk adjacent properties. They put at risk adjacent residences, and they put at risk our
395 emergency responders. And in the event, when they're in facilities, which have hazardous
396 materials constructed within from decades ago, if those catch on fire, then we have an airborne
397 contamination concern. And so the fires are a major issue as they spread from the encampments.
398 We have in a lot of locations pedestrian and vehicle, pedestrian and vehicle conflicts, where we
399 have just uncontrolled pedestrian traffic at cross streets that come into conflict with vehicles and
400 then the associated potential for accidents resulting from that.

401 We get calls on a regular basis from residents regarding personal and property safety. They do
402 feel that. Whether real or perceived, it is real to them. They do bring up crime increases,
403 increased cost for security, those sorts of things, and so we have that problem.

404 Water quality, as Brad mentioned, and the MS4 permit. The MS4 permit is the Municipal
405 Separate Storm System Sewer. That is the permit which allows our storm flow to go directly to
406 Lake Mead without being treated. That's also the permit which allows us to send our treated
407 water. It is a critical permit. We are not a city without that permit, cannot operate. And so that
408 permit is implemented by and enforced by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the
409 State of Nevada Department of Environmental Protection.

410 We are subject to conditions of that permit. That means clean water quality standards. We have
411 to protect our storm flow. If we don't protect our storm flow, we're subject to fines, citation, and
412 in a worst-case scenario being forced to create a whole separate infrastructure to treat the storm
413 sewers. And so we do need to give consideration for the fact of what's going down our drains and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

414 how we protect our storm drain systems.

415 Visual and odor blight is another concern brought constantly by residents who live near
416 encampments. The City does have, and you went through some of them earlier, municipal codes
417 whereby we do not allow properties, private properties to create blight or distress to adjacent
418 properties. If we can enforce those on private property owners, then it seems incumbent upon us
419 to make sure that our infrastructure is maintained in a manner so as not to create a blight on the
420 adjacent properties. And so we try hard to keep and make sure that our infrastructure is kept
421 clean and not detracting from adjacent properties.

422 The regulatory violations in conjunction with MS4, we have ADA requirements that require us
423 to provide for sidewalk navigability. We also could be subject to regional and state
424 considerations going back to the disease issues and the sanitary conditions.

425 Finally, there's a public fiscal consideration, which Brad touched upon. If we allow
426 neighborhood livability to be reduced, if we allow neighborhood livability concerns to arise so
427 that a neighborhood goes to a less desirable place that will inevitably affect property values. That
428 will affect city cash flows. Same with loss of commercial enterprises because we don't maintain
429 an acceptable operating standards for those. And so as we try to fund new and expanded
430 activities to support the population and need, we do need to think about how we continue to
431 maintain our fiscal stability in light of these concerns.

432 Now the photos that I've shown, the one on the left is at – Bonanza, at the Bonanza underpass.
433 That's about a 20 foot drop-off down to the bottom there. They're perched on the ledge. They're
434 chopping bicycles up in that location. There was a rope to climb up into there. There was debris
435 down below and so just a hazard for the immediate area.

436 The next one is a utility vault. That utility vault is located at Summerlin Parkway and the Buffalo
437 off-ramp eastbound or on-ramp. That utility vault had an individual living in it. He managed to
438 catch his possessions on fire, and the whole thing went up on fire. He's lucky he wasn't seriously
439 hurt. And so we have those sorts of concerns.

440 Currently, our Operations and Maintenance Department on infrastructure maintenance, and again
441 we're providing for up to \$10 billion in maintenance. But with respect to the encampment
442 abatement, we've historically had a nine-person crew, and they provided for right-of-way
443 cleaning, and so that includes illegally dumped debris, encampment abatement, those sorts of

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

444 issues. Seven, eight years ago they were spending half of their time on cleaning encampment-
445 related concerns, primarily in Foremaster and the Corridor of Hope. Those efforts have been
446 escalating over the last few years and especially over the last couple. That crew now spends full-
447 time on those activities, and we also have had to pull additional crew support from other
448 maintenance activities at our East Yard, our West Yard, and our Downtown section. And so
449 we've reallocated work activities to make sure that we're cleaning debris related accumulations
450 and other issues from public rights-of-way, trails, and drainage structures.

451 They also sanitize areas when they're done, after cleaning it. And we've done a fair amount of
452 security application, where areas that should be out of – use, that are not open to the public, we
453 secure those to make sure they stay closed.

454 We also have four to six employees dedicated full-time to hazard abatement and encampment
455 abatement in city parks. This includes collection of debris, drug paraphernalia, sexual
456 paraphernalia, and specifically needles to make sure that those are not in the park, laying open
457 unsheathed.

458 We are looking at additional options with the passage of the environmental fee for a further
459 expansion as we see this problem continuing to grow.

460 Recent abatement efforts are shown on this map. You can see the priority of our work. The blue
461 asterisk is where we've improved a location. The green triangle is where we plan to improve a
462 location. The purple is routine cleaning area, and then the burnt orange is affected parks. And so,
463 although we're primarily in the downtown area and the eastern part of our boundaries, this is
464 spreading citywide.

465 Due to the concerns in the downtown area over the last year, and we were not spending much
466 time in the downtown area until a couple of years ago, we do have crews specifically in
467 downtown, misdemeanor work crews, and they patrol the downtown streets on a regular basis.

468 We pick up the trash and the debris and clean up the bio waste and those sorts of things on a
469 regular basis, but we were not undertaking encampment abatement efforts. We have increased
470 our cleaning efforts in the downtown area based on the recent concerns, and you can see
471 highlighted in there basically the areas that we're working at.

472 The storm drains are not a public access location. They are a secured location. They are
473 functioning infrastructure. They're not open for general public use, and they're posted as no

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

474 trespassing and secured with fencing as necessary. Nonetheless, we do get a lot of activity in our
475 storm drain systems creating various problems.

476 The first photo on the left, that is underneath the Summerlin Parkway. It's part of a box storm
477 drain structure that enters into the Lone Mountain Channel. It was a very well-kept encampment.
478 Metro Northwest Area Command brought it to our attention. We dislocated with their support
479 this trespass activity. Then we removed all the debris. The persons there were able to take all the
480 private property they wanted. We took what was left.

481 Let me just point out, though, that – encampment was 300 yards from the nearest escape point.

482 And so the Summerlin Corridor still gathers huge storm flow. It comes off the side of the
483 mountain on the Red Rock Conservation Area. And so that channel can fill up and that box
484 structure can fill up pretty quickly and before it ever rains in that area. If those individuals would
485 have stayed in there, at some point in time, would have been digging all of the possessions out of
486 the Doc Romeo Basin and in a worst-case scenario some of – the campers.

487 The second photo you see is a project we undertook in conjunction with the Nevada Department
488 of Transportation and again Northwest Area Command. That's a box structure in Alexander and
489 the 95. This points out a different problem, and you can see that's plumb full of trash. That
490 structure will not flow. That's an intentional construction to divert flow and hold back flow in
491 that area. And it makes just common sense that if you're living in a storm drain channel, you will
492 obstruct the nuisance flows that are coming down on you so as not to continually get wet.

493 And so we find in our storm drain structures on a regular basis are these intentional construction
494 of barriers, both for the main flow lines and for the auxiliary flow lines. And so a drop inlet on
495 the street that's dropping into here, that would be closed off by the inhabitants so that they don't
496 get wet. I certainly understand why they would do that, but then that makes that a non-
497 functioning drop inlet, and worse yet, now we go back to why I brought up mosquitoes as an
498 issue. Now I have a standing pond for mosquito abatement, which is hugely problematic for us
499 six months out of the year.

500 The last one is just another one which shows again all of the amounts and types of debris. Boxes,
501 mattresses, they can get jammed up in the storm drain systems. They can create huge flooding
502 problems. If they don't get jammed up, though, that's all headed to Lake Mead. And so not only
503 is there a contaminant issue, there's also a sedimentation issue. Lake Mead gets silt, sand, and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

504 debris on a regular basis. And after a certain number of decades, it starts to make an appreciable
505 difference in the elevation and depth of the lake.

506 Some sidewalk issues, the one on the left is just what we were talking about for sanitary
507 conditions, vector control. That's just a lot of uneaten food there, putrescible waste. Bedding
508 material, that's a rodent haven.

509 On the upper right is an encampment that set up overnight on H Street. These are very fluid.

510 There are some places where encampments are stable and they stay long term, but in large part
511 the encampments set up and move on a – frequent basis.

512 Now the last one on the right is an individual living in front of a house and in that driveway. And
513 the length of his train of possessions there is about eight feet long. And so the individual living in
514 that house can't get out of his house to get to his car. And that just seems inappropriate and one
515 of the reasons that residential streets was added to the ordinance.

516 Public roadways, in the upper left-hand corner and the bottom, those are from the F Street
517 underpass. The F Street underpass was constructed in a manner so as to facilitate encampments.

518 We undertook some modifications, not intentionally, of course, but just the way it laid out we
519 had huge encampments on the sidewalks along within the median island, and so it basically no
520 longer served a function as an encampment area, and worse yet, as you can see in the bottom,
521 there's so much pedestrian traffic across the street. This is a very heavily traveled roadway. You
522 come in out of the sun, into the shade. It was blinding when you move in there, and you better
523 not be going more than a few miles an hour as you come in out of the sun because you're likely
524 to encounter inhabitants just as soon as your eyes adjust to the, or pedestrians just as soon as
525 your eyes adjust to the change in light.

526 The center photo on the top, that is a pedestrian bridge. And so we get encampments on
527 pedestrian bridges to the point that they're no longer functional. They're obstructed to the point
528 that people can't get by 'em.

529 The same on the top right-hand corner. That's in an alley. And we also have trouble with
530 encampments in alleys spreading out to the point that they're an obstruction to the vehicle traffic
531 in the alley in addition to being on somebody's backyard.

532 Residential areas, the top left-hand corner is at Cheyenne and the 95, and you can see we're right
533 on the back of an apartment complex. That apartment complex suffers from increased theft.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

534 Same with the one in the middle. That's at Smoke Ranch and the 95. These apartment complexes
535 have all had higher security and so an additional cost for those residents.

536 There's an additional cost to housing costs. And then the individuals that live on the back there
537 do not feel safe. That's their strongly expressed position.

538 The photo on the top, on the right, that is at B and Owens. And although that's NDOT right-of-
539 way and not North Las Vegas jurisdiction, those houses that all those tents are pitched up
540 against, those are City residents. And so in an effort to provide service to those City residents, we
541 did coordinate an effort with Metropolitan Police Department, City of North Las Vegas Police,
542 City of North Las Vegas Public Works, and NDOT maintenance crews. And so that was a very
543 problematic area. We did clear it and clean it. There is some reestablishment, but the primary
544 reason for us doing this last year was to clear it and clean it because it was getting pretty darn
545 bad.

546 The bottom left and the bottom right are along the Las Vegas Wash, and again you've got tent
547 cities forming immediately outside of people's back walls, backyard – block walls, and then they
548 get very uncomfortable with that.

549 The one in the center, that's at Azure and – Tenaya. And so, it's, you know, it's not restricted to
550 the central and east sides of town. We do have these neighborhood encampments detracting from
551 a quality of life throughout the City.

552 Our downtown commercial areas, the upper left-hand photo is at 4th and Clark. Right-hand
553 photo is over at Ogden and City Parkway. You can see the utility cutout in the top center photo.

554 Utility cutouts are especially problematic. We have discussed with NVE possible options to
555 secure those locations because it's just not safe for those to be encampment areas.

556 The bottom left-hand photo is on City of Las Vegas property. You can see all the urine staining
557 at that location. We will see if we can work with NVE and take measures to secure that location
558 to eliminate that problem.

559 The bottom right-hand corner is in the outside northbound lane on Decatur, in front of a fast food
560 restaurant. And so this individual had set up there on a regular basis. Traffic would have to stop
561 when they would come across that caravan and then merge over into the center lane. And so that
562 was problematic for the businesses on that corner since it was restricting access and creating
563 traffic problems.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

Prior to initiation of the ordinance with the concern of the growth in the downtown area, we went ahead and did some counts downtown. This is a map of those counts. And so we counted the number of people who were in a lodging situation in accordance with how the ordinance was written.

During the daytime hours, in this area bounded basically by Charleston, the UPR Railroad, H 95, and I think that's probably 8th Street over there, during the daytime hours, we would count approximately 150 people in lodging status in the streets. During the overnight hours, 2:00 to 3:00 a.m. in the morning, there would be 300 with counts up to 400. And so the downtown counts had considerably risen over historical counts.

I would throw out a few additional considerations. Our homeless population is six out of every thousand or 0.6 percent. We understand and strongly concur with the City proactive efforts to provide support for individuals in need. However, it's been our experience that many individuals will not accept that support.

Also, in terms of where we're headed in the future, and as Brad mentioned earlier, this is not a new issue. It's been going on at this status for 10 years now. Other municipalities have looked at it. We all agree that there are underlying circumstances along a broad spectrum, and so we have individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, health issues, and economic circumstances.

And so, when you consider that all together, it comes to the conclusion that this is neither a new problem nor is it a problem that is specific to Las Vegas. It's been looked at. There is no one-size-fits-all, no immediately affordable answer, no immediate all-inclusive answer to these underlying problems. And so in terms of what we have to do to continue to maintain the public infrastructure and the public safety, we see mediation or remediation of the encampment problems as an ongoing issue.

It's my understanding that this ordinance will not primarily be an enforcement issue. It's just a matter of controlling where the problem will be, understanding that we're going to continue to have encampment concerns. And so if we're going to have the problems that are associated with it, it seems prudent to go ahead and take control of where the problems are and identify where they can be and under what circumstances they can be there. If we don't make that action, then the problem will take control of us. We will be reactive only, and our problems will continue to expand to issues where they really shouldn't be.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

594 And with that, I'm gonna turn it back over to Jeff.

595

596 **JEFF DOROCAK**

597 Thank – you, Jerry. Mayor and Council, Jeff Dorocak, Deputy City Attorney, for the record.

598 What Jerry Walker just laid out were the facts and reality on the ground when Mayor Goodman
599 requested that our office, the City Attorney's Office, draft the proposed ordinance before you
600 today.

601 So the first question might be are we proposing something that's unique? The answer is no. A
602 homeless group did a 2014 study of 187 cities across the country, and they found that 64 of them
603 had citywide camping bans everywhere, public and private property. No camping anywhere.
604 Another 107 had camping bans either on all public property or on select public property in the
605 city. And what's also significant is camping bans can be found throughout the country, in all 11
606 of our regional courts of appeals, including our Ninth Circuit, which we are in, which is
607 responsible for Nevada and eight other states.

608 So all of these cities outside of the western United States have some type of camping ban in
609 place currently. For instance, we heard this morning a lot about Salt Lake City's success with
610 housing first. Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler will tell us how the City also employs housing first as part
611 of its – strategy. But what's interesting is Salt Lake City also has citywide camping and sleeping
612 bans.

613 Austin, Texas, for example, had – a camping ban across the city, but the City Council there
614 decided to repeal it in June. The reaction was so great from residents, businesses, and law
615 enforcement that they've just recently brought it back, and now on every sidewalk throughout
616 the city camping is prohibited, and in a half mile diameter downtown camping's prohibited.
617 And then finally, Denver has a full, complete city ban on camping. And what's interesting there
618 was, in May of this year, the citizens brought a referendum to repeal the camping ban, to take it
619 off the citizens referendum. It went to the citizens for a vote, and the camping ban remained by
620 an 80 to 20 margin when they – voted.

621 So as I mentioned, we also have cities out West that have some type of camping ban, but they
622 were all thrown into flux by a decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals late last year and
623 also early this year, called Martin verses City of Boise. The facts of this case are relatively

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

624 straightforward. Six homeless individuals had been cited under Boise's ordinances, which
625 prohibited sleeping or camping anywhere in the city.

626 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reviewed the ordinances of Boise and said that the
627 ordinances were cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the Eighth Amendment of the
628 U.S. Constitution. And they said they were unconstitutional because they punished, the arrest,
629 prosecution, criminal punishment individuals for sleeping outdoors in public places. So that's
630 part one. But two, they punished them while there was no alternative shelter available.

631 So this decision is unlike anything in any other court of appeals across the country. We respect it,
632 and obviously we have to work within it. But it created a lot of issues for all of the cities in front
633 of you out west that have some type of ban, and as a result we saw a lot of different reactions to
634 the decision.

635 San Francisco and Portland no longer enforce any type of camping ban. Los Angeles is
636 attempting to bring a new, site-specific camping ban. Meanwhile, Seattle has a downtown
637 sleeping ban, and they still enforce and don't believe the decision affects them.

638 The ordinance we've drafted and put in front of you today we believe is viable. It's enforceable,
639 and as I'll explain shortly, we believe in every key respect to the Boise ordinances it's different.

640 So finally, turning to the proposed ordinance in front of you today, Bill No. 2019-36, it will
641 apply to all 12 of the City's Downtown Master Plan Districts and all residential neighborhoods.

642 The Downtown Master Plan Districts extend from the Historic Westside District and Cashman in
643 Ward 5 to the Medical District in Ward 1 in the west, and out east to the Fremont East District in
644 Ward 3. Down south, it takes into account the City's Gateway and Design Districts that are
645 obviously to Sahara, the gateway of the City's downtown area.

646 The ordinance will prohibit sitting, lying, sleeping, or setting up any type of structure that is for
647 camping, and it will also, as I didn't note, will apply to food processing facilities' receiving
648 docks, any public right-of-way within 500 feet of those docks.

649 We'll hear a little bit later about enforcement, but written into the ordinance is how our Marshals
650 and Metro will enforce the provisions of this ordinance. They will approach anyone who is in
651 violation. They will notify them that they are in violation so that they can cease conduct. They
652 will let them know that resources are available at the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center, and
653 they will direct those people to that location, because the area around the Courtyard and the

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

654 Courtyard itself are not subject to the ordinance.

655 As I mentioned, when notified by law enforcement, if you cease in a reasonable time and move
656 on, you will not be subject to any type of arrest or citation. We also have numerous other
657 exceptions to arrest or citation, taken from all the other cities that have ordinances like ours.

658 And then finally, also mentioned this morning, we have a provision that will suspend the
659 ordinance when the City finds out that all of the shelters in Las Vegas are at maximum capacity.

660 So finally, turning to what are the key distinctions between what we're proposing this afternoon
661 to the unconstitutional Boise ordinances. As I already mentioned, Boise's ordinances regarding
662 sleeping and camping applied across the city, everywhere. There was no exception. Las Vegas',
663 the proposal in front of you, is for downtown and residential neighborhoods.

664 Boise could have limited theirs by time or place. They did neither. We limited ours by place.

665 Our ordinance begins with the prospect of suspending enforcement if the shelters are full. Boise's
666 did not. They eventually modified theirs to include that provision. But besides that similarity,
667 everything else about suspending enforcement is different – between the two cities.

668 First of all, Boise had no alternative shelter run by the city. They had three private shelters. We
669 have a Courtyard Resource Center run by the City, operated by the City in addition to the private
670 – shelters that are located in the Corridor of Hope.

671 Another key difference, the Courtyard, and we'll hear more about what this means later, is a low-
672 barrier facility. Essentially, unless you cause violence inside the Courtyard, we will let you in.

673 Boise, because they had no public facility and only private facilities, didn't have a low-barrier
674 shelter.

675 And then finally, we will make sure, and it's already been drafted by Community Services, to set
676 a policy in place to reach out, and this is also prescribed in the ordinance, to reach out to the
677 shelters to find out if they're full. In Boise, the city did nothing and waited for the shelters to tell
678 them they were full. We will reach out, we will find out when all the other shelters are at
679 maximum capacity, and when the Courtyard is also at maximum capacity, we will contact law
680 enforcement and tell them to suspend the ordinance until 6:00 a.m. the following day when room
681 can again be made available at our shelters.

682 Those are the crucial differences why we believe we have a enforceable, viable ordinance in
683 front of you. And now what we're going to do is turn it back over to Brad Jerbic, City Attorney,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

and our Chief Community Services Officer, Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, to respond to some of the arguments we've heard generally against the City's strategy and then also to talk about what we are doing in terms of the homeless situation.

BRAD JERBIC

Thank you, Jeff. Oops –, I hit the wrong button. There we go.

So available or nonviable tools for dealing with this issue, and we're talking about this issue.

We're talking about camping in very sensitive areas of town, residential neighborhoods, and our business district that don't have setbacks. We're not talking about all over town.

And I've used the word tool because this ordinance is a tool. This is no solution. I'm not gonna stand up here and look you in the face and say we got the answer to homelessness. Let's just go out there and police this whole thing and lock everybody up and throw them in jail. That's ridiculous. That's absolutely absurd, and it's not what this ordinance says. But it's been misrepresented from day one that – is what it says. So let's talk about some things and then I'll talk a little bit about enforcement as well.

Let's talk about mental health laws and involuntary in commitment. I've heard an awful lot about this and why don't we get this self-identified 50 percent of the people the treatment that they need. Well, here's the way it works in Nevada.

We have something called Legal 2000. Now Legal 2000 says before a person alleged to be a person with mental illness may be transported to a public or private mental health facility, pursuant to NRS blah, blah, blah, the person must first be examined by a licensed physician or a licensed physician assistant or an advanced practitioner of nursing to determine whether the person has a medical problem, other than a psychiatric problem which requires immediate treatment, and if such treatment is required, be admitted to the appropriate medical care. First of all, you're looking for physical illness aside from psychiatric. And then to another appropriate medical facility the person is not in need of emergency services.

This is where you go down the rabbit hole. This is amazing. A patient brought to an ER by an EMS, an emergency medical technician, they have to fill out Page A of the Legal 2000 form. And then, one, they go through an initial evaluation establishing whether or not the patient does not meet the criteria. And if they don't meet the criteria for Legal 2000 Page A, out the door.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

714 Two, the patient meets the criteria under Page A of Legal 2000 and medical evaluation
715 establishes that the patient is medically clear, no medical issue. Boom, they complete Page B of
716 Legal 2000, and they're transferred to a mental health facility where they're not gonna stay very
717 long. They're gonna diagnose them, they may get them on meds, and they're gonna be out the
718 door.

719 And then third, patient meets criteria, but medical evaluation determines the patient is not
720 medically clear, then they're admitted to a hospital for treatment.

721 That's what happens in the mental health system that everybody brags about and talks about. And
722 I've heard people talk about how, oh, there's been a change to the law. It makes it so much easier
723 to get somebody involuntarily sent to a mental hospital.

724 Well, under the law, you have to be an imminent threat to yourself or others, and the law was
725 changed not by government, not by police, but by people in Northern Nevada who wanted an
726 additional tool to get their relatives into a mental institution. And so they designed the law a little
727 differently to give a little more broad meaning to threat to yourself or others that would broaden
728 the scope of what criteria you could use to incarcerate, or not incarcerate but institutionalize
729 somebody. But that was the genesis. And I know people are gonna stand up here and say that's
730 the magic wand. It's not the magic wand.

731

732 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

733 Wrap it up.

734

735 **BRAD JERBIC**

736 I sat here for three hours this morning, if you don't mind-

737

738 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

739 So did we. So did we. We sat here for three hours or more.

740

741 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

742 Your two minutes is up.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

743 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

744 Please.

745

746 **BRAD JERBIC**

747 You know, the funny thing about this issue is this is an example of it. Is we should have a
748 civilized dialogue in this country. I respect everybody in this room. You're all Americans who
749 came down here and exercised your freedom of speech, and I think that's admirable. We don't
750 have to agree. But God, we're lucky to live in a country where we can have this dialogue. But it
751 doesn't have to be a hostile dialogue.

752

753 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

754 This is not a dialogue. We're not gonna have (inaudible)-

755

756 **BRAD JERBIC**

757 Let's talk about any, so mental health laws and involuntary commitment I do not think work. Let
758 me talk about if there's no underlying psychiatric illness, you're cleared and discontinued.

759 If the psychiatric symptoms are due to a substance use disorder, when mentally stable, you refer
760 them to a substance abuse program. How many people go to a substance abuse program that fit
761 our criteria? We have jobs and we work, but we might have an alcohol problem or whatever.

762 You're not gonna go back unless you want to get cured. Simply referring somebody to a program
763 doesn't get them off the street. And quite often they don't have the transportation to get there or
764 to get back.

765 Psychiatric diagnosis generates treatment recommendations, treatment successful and patient no
766 longer meets criteria, Legal 2000 discontinued.

767 And then finally, psychiatric treatment does not lead to significant improvement. I don't know
768 what that means, but I suppose the pills don't work or whatever they give you doesn't work, and
769 then you're transferred to a mental health facility.

770 So you can see there's very limited application of mental health laws for this particular
771 population. It's hard enough to get somebody with a job to go in for treatment let alone
772 somebody who's on the streets. And we get that. So I don't want you to, anybody to live under

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

773 some false belief that's – gonna solve it.

774 Transitional housing. Transitional housing is absolutely necessary. As we mentioned earlier,

775 when I first started talking, we don't pay an affordable wage. People can't afford to live in an

776 apartment. How are you ever going to get off the street, get into wherever that you get treatment,

777 you get shelter, you get off drugs, you get psychiatric treatment if that's necessary, whatever it is,

778 and you still can't get a house. So transitional housing sounds good, and it is and we need more

779 of it. And we need it yesterday, not two years from now. But that isn't what's gonna get

780 somebody off the street right this minute. It might get them from a shelter into transitional.

781 There was a program in L.A. called Project 50, and what they did, and I may have the name

782 wrong. But what they did was they took 50 homeless people in Los Angeles and they tried an

783 experimental program putting them into transitional housing. And at the end of two years, they

784 had a 93 percent success rate. That means, you know, just a few people dropped out.

785 But what happened during those years was interesting. People just don't go right into housing

786 from the street and are able to, they're not equipped for it. In a lot of cases, they're just not

787 equipped for it. Not bad people. They're just not equipped. It's like you get out of high school and

788 you get your first apartment. Are you equipped? Nobody is.

789 So they go in and what they found is that quite often the rooms that they would be in would look

790 just like where they were in the street, same amount of debris, same amount of other things. Or

791 they didn't have the – rhythm or the skill set to go to jobs on time and things like that. So what

792 they did is they assigned counselors to every one of 'em, and those counselors had a great deal of

793 success, a great deal of success.

794 I only mention it because on one hand it's inspirational. On the other hand, it shows you this isn't

795 a simple build a room, put 'em in it, problem solved. It's not that kind of issue.

796 So transitional housing, while it's essential and in an abundance, it –, there's another reason it's

797 necessary too from just a pragmatic point of view. If you live in a city where these tech

798 companies have your economy on fire, aren't you lucky? You know, you go from making \$10 to

799 \$20 to \$30 to \$40 to \$50 to whatever dollars an hour, and because the economy is going up rental

800 prices are going up. But guess who's not going up. The person who changes beds at the hotel, the

801 person who does your laundry, the person who fries the hamburger at McDonald's, the person

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

802 who has just a regular day-to-day job. They work. They work ethic. They have every incentive to
803 get ahead in life, but the economy left them behind. It dropped 'em.

804 And so that's where I think transitional housing is. We all should call it workforce housing now,
805 because in some places, like the Bay Area, can you imagine working in San Francisco, doing any
806 one of the jobs I just described and living anywhere near San Francisco? When you have to
807 commute two or three hours a day to get there and two or three hours back, what quality of life
808 do you have?

809 I understand this. We understand this. I don't dismiss anything everybody out here's said, not one
810 thing. I believe it. But I'm just saying it's not that easy a cure.

811 And then finally, let's talk about portable toilets and showers. I actually brought this up at a
812 meeting. I said, "Why don't we take where the homeless corridor is and put a bunch of Port-a-
813 Potties down there? It's better than going to the bathroom on the street." Uh-uh. Here's what
814 happened.

815 We learned a lot with our Courtyard. Our Courtyard is not perfect, but there are a lot of shelters
816 that will not take you. Our Courtyard will. And at first, we estimated three bathrooms and
817 emptying them two or three times a week. Guess what? We have a dozen out there, and we're
818 emptying them every day. And the reason they work in the Courtyard environment is we have
819 security. Without security around a Port-a-Potty you're in trouble. They turn into a more
820 dangerous thing than what they're intended to do.

821

822 **COUNCILMAN CREAR**

823 Madam Mayor? Mind if I may just one comment on that? With the Port-a-Potties, you know, a
824 group of us have been traveling around the country looking at homelessness, and one of the areas
825 we went to, a number of areas, but one in downtown Los Angeles in Skid Row, where there's
826 5,000 street homeless that reside in about 0.6 square miles. And we walked it with the LAPD
827 task force, which is made up of 66 officers that are dedicated 24 hours a day, monitoring this 0.6
828 square mile area.

829 And downtown L.A. put in restrooms, nice restrooms, like the sort you see in Europe. And the –
830 number one issue that the lieutenant said that happens in Skid Row is that there's drug and
831 alcohol sales, there is prostitution, there's mental illness. And, but what happens inside those

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

832 bathrooms is that there's drug sales that happen, alcohol sales, and prostitution takes place, and
833 they been overtaken by that. And so that's another area of concern when you put unattended
834 restrooms out in the – street. Thanks.

835

836 **BRAD JERBIC**

837 Thank you Councilman. That's my exact point. You do transitional housing and you put people
838 right into that aren't prepared, it's gonna take a hell of a lot more manpower just to make that
839 succeed like in L.A. If you put in Port-a-Potties or bathrooms, it's gonna take a hell of a lot more
840 manpower. It's not just a buy it and set it and they will use it. It's going to become a nuisance,
841 and we know that.

842 And so like I say, these sound like wonderful ideas, but you run into a wall with a lot of them. It
843 doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to explore alternatives. But – that's it.

844 And then, let me go to the, I'm going to turn this over to Lisa Morris Hibbler in just a moment,
845 but I just want to talk about the limited application of this.

846 Keep in mind what it takes for the criminal provision of this law to kick in, and I'm gonna tell
847 everybody with a straight face I hate having a criminal provision associated with this law.

848

849 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

850 Then don't put it in.

851

852 **BRAD JERBIC**

853 But I'm gonna tell you, I'm going, I'll let you answer the question when I get done and it's your
854 chance to get up. Here's the question.

855

856 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

857 Are we gonna get up?

858

859 **BRAD JERBIC**

860 Keep in mind, keep in mind this is the way it works. If there are no shelter beds available, we
861 don't enforce period. There will be no arrests. There will be no citations. There will be nothing. If

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

862 there are shelter beds, and we're responsible for finding out if there are shelter beds, then we will
863 enforce to the limit that those shelter beds get full up.

864 Now all we are saying is you can sleep on the street even under this law, even when there are
865 shelter beds, even when this area is not open. You can sleep on the street. You just can't pick
866 your street.

867 You can't pick your street. That's absurd. I go up to the mountains right now and I decide I'm
868 gonna go camping and I go to a place that's off-limit for camping and the ranger comes over and
869 says, "You've got to move. You camp on our mountain, but you can't do it here." What happens
870 when I tell him to go to hell? What happens? I get arrested. That's what happens.

871

872 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

873 (Inaudible).

874

875 **BRAD JERBIC**

876 Nothing happens here until several things happen. What happens here is, one, we're not closing
877 this entire town off by any means. Two, we only enforce when we have shelter beds available so
878 the alternative is the street. So you have two options, a street that isn't one of the off-limits streets
879 or a shelter bed.

880 And only after we offer to move you, only after we offer assistance, because we're not asking
881 you to pack up and hike five miles, we have MORE teams that will physically move you, trucks
882 that will come out and physically move you. And we'll put you in contact with service providers,
883 and we'll put you in contact with bathrooms, and we'll put you in contact with those things.

884 And then if you say "I refuse to move," that's the question that I ask myself. What do you do then
885 when you have a law and you can't do anything 'cause a person says they refuse to move? And
886 that's your call. If you want to eliminate the criminal provision, that's the problem. You don't
887 have any way to enforce it, other than I asked 'em and they wouldn't move. And once everybody
888 knows they don't have to move, nobody is going to move. And then you don't have any law that's
889 worth anything.

890 And I don't like it, but I'll tell you it's – hard for me to imagine we are actually putting together a
891 program where I am going to put deputies in areas like our Courtyard-

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

892 **COUNCILMAN CREAR**

893 Brad, we can't hear you.

894

895 **BRAD JERBIC**

896 I'm sorry. I'm gonna put deputies in areas like our Courtyard with computers to clear warrants for
897 homeless people. It doesn't, it disgusts me to think that there's one more opportunity to put one
898 more hickey on a homeless person. That is not what anybody wants to do.

899 But remember, at this point in time, you're not getting a ticket 'cause you're homeless. You're not
900 getting a ticket 'cause you're on the street. You're getting a ticket 'cause you're not obeying the
901 law, and it's a simple law to obey. And it's easy, it's convenient, and it's only applicable when we
902 have available shelter beds. And that's what I want you to keep in mind as you hear people
903 speak, because I think the application of this to individuals, right now, people are moved every
904 day in this town. People are moved every single day. The problem is when we have
905 encampments like we have right now and we have them blossoming like they're blossoming.

906 Let me go back and just read one more thing and then I'll turn it over to Lisa. When I was talking
907 about the numbers, this is what the Review Journal printed in July of this year.

908 Quote, when the annual census showed 13 percent decline from the previous year, many of those
909 laboring on the front lines of the battle against homelessness say there's no evidence that the
910 problem is easy. That's one quote from that article.

911 Deacon Tom, Catholic Charities, and leaders of other local service providers say they can't
912 explain the decline, but add that it contradicts what they see in the trenches.

913 Quote, I don't know where they got these numbers, said Arnold Stalk, CEO of Veterans Village.

914 Quote, it is like a picture. It is a kind of a moment frozen in time, said Clark County Social
915 Manager, Michele Fuller-Hallauer.

916 And then finally, a 70 —, (inaudible) me, 67-year-old homeless individual, named TJ, was quoted
917 as saying he spent a decade living on and off the streets of Las Vegas. And he said, quote, I can
918 guarantee the homeless census is wrong. They probably missed half.

919 That's the reality. And with that, let me turn you over to Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

920 **LISA MORRIS HIBBLER**

921 Thank you. Good afternoon, Mayor, members of the Council. Lisa Morris Hibbler, Chief
922 Community Services Officer in the City Manager's Office. And I'd like to talk to you a little bit,
923 a little today a little bit about what we are doing, the programs and services that the City is
924 providing related to homelessness and affordable housing, most of which are provided through
925 our Office of Community Services, led by Director Kathi Thomas.

926 You heard Brad say that homelessness is a complex, individualized issue. And that stems from a
927 lot of different factors, and that includes mental illness, substance abuse, low wages, loss of job,
928 poverty, lack of affordable housing, military service, and incarceration.

929 And many of you have gone and met with cities across the country to learn more about what they
930 are doing, how they're combating this issue. You've talked to local nonprofits and agencies about
931 this issue. We've spoken with our federal representatives and agencies about this issue.

932 And I submit to you that we do not have a knowledge gap. What we have is a resource gap,
933 because assisting individuals experiencing homelessness relies on a variety of systems of
934 support, most of which the City of Las Vegas has little to no control. And that includes the
935 mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, primary health care services, welfare cash
936 assistance and support services, job skills, shelter services, and transitional and permanent
937 housing.

938 And despite our limitations, the previous City Council and this Mayor and City Council have
939 been actively involved in ensuring the City is providing compassionate and humane services to
940 residents experiencing homelessness. You may remember that the last few City Council
941 meetings you have approved affordable housing projects that will take to the three years to build.

942 And according to the available data, over the past five years, jurisdictions have invested over
943 \$165 million on homeless services and affordable housing as a region, of which the City made
944 up one-third of those, that funding, investing nearly \$51 million.

945 Of that \$51 million, \$29 million has been approved by the City Council to support the continuum
946 of interventions of strategy, as illustrated on this diagram, from street level outreach and triage to
947 self-sufficiency through permanent affordable housing.

948 The City of Las Vegas' intervention strategies are based on documented best practices that
949 include providing a low-barrier and housing-focused shelter model through the Courtyard. The

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

950 outreach and diversion through the MORE teams, which includes coordination with local law
951 enforcement. Client-centered case management and housing first when appropriate, because
952 we've learned firsthand, through the homeless prevention and rapid rehousing programs that we
953 ran back in 2009, under ARRA, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, that everyone is
954 not ready to be moved from the street straight into housing. Sometimes there's a stabilization
955 process that has to occur first.

956 Our MORE teams stand for Multi-agency Outreach Resource and Engagement teams. These
957 multidisciplinary teams consist of some of the nonprofit partners you heard from today, Help of
958 Southern Nevada, WestCare, Salvation Army, and US Vets, along with our law enforcement,
959 Metro and city marshals. They provide outreach and on-site triage and diversion right where
960 people are. The outreach and diversion are key services provided by the City of Las Vegas to
961 assess the specific needs of the individuals in crisis and then to direct them to the appropriate
962 resources.

963 Through diversion, the MORE teams help people seek shelter. They identify alternative housing
964 arrangements and if necessary connect them with resources and services to help them return to
965 permanent housing.

966 The City is now in the process, we have three MORE teams, we're in the process of adding a
967 fourth MORE team that will allow us to have seven days a week coverage, but we will not get to
968 24/7 coverage because of the cost, and we're still working on those, on plugging that gap. But the
969 cost is \$440,000, and that covers our nonprofit partners being a part of that team and the
970 Marshals.

971 You've heard a lot about the Homeless Courtyard Resource Center, and understanding the needs
972 of the community, the City made a decision, and that decision was to begin providing services
973 immediately rather than waiting three years for the full build-out of the Courtyard. So it is
974 accurate when people say that the Courtyard is a parking lot with some old buildings on it. But
975 the staff has leveraged resources of partner agencies so we can provide a full range of services.
976 The Courtyard is considered a low-barrier shelter, and what that means is we accept people as
977 they are. We have removed barriers such as pets, partners, and possessions. And you may ask,
978 what does that mean? People can bring their pets. We've got iguanas all the way to birds and cats
979 and dogs. We have veterinarian services that help with those.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

980 Partners, however they define their family, they can come as they are. We don't separate people.
981 A mother with a 16-year-old son does not have to have her son go to the men's shelter while she
982 is at a different shelter.
983 And possessions, we don't tell you how many bags of possessions you can bring. We'll talk a
984 little bit more about the bins that we have on-site.
985 There are no curfews, no breathalyzing, no strict check-in or check-out times. Guests are able to
986 come and go as they see fit. And for the hundreds of guests that stay at the Courtyard, it is a safe
987 place where all are welcomed. It is a place to use the restroom, a place to store belongings, a
988 place to remain as a family unit.
989 And like many families who have sought refuge at the Courtyard, last October a young couple
990 arrived at the Courtyard. The woman was pregnant and near full-term, and the staff quickly got
991 her into bridge housing, and less than a week later they had a precious baby girl.
992 So we agree that the Courtyard may not be the best for families and children, but they come
993 there, and the staff does what they need to do to quickly get them into other options. Twenty-four
994 seven, the staff works to make sure that the guests there are hired, housed, and healthy.
995 The Courtyard has a lot of diversion programs right now, and that includes our Ticket to Home,
996 rental assistance, flexible housing programs. But it also provides case management. The bin
997 storage I spoke about, 450 individual units that are locked by the guests so they can leave their
998 stuff and go to a doctor's appointment and they can leave their stuff and they can go to a job
999 interview. They can take care of their appointments and know they can come back and their
1000 belongings will be where they left them. Pet kennels with veterinarian partners that help make
1001 sure that they're taken of.
1002 Restroom facilities, you heard about we have 12 Port-a-Potties cleaned seven days a week, that
1003 we dump 5,000 gallons of human waste every week. That prevents that from being on the street,
1004 and it cost us \$250,000 a year.
1005 We have a mobile pharmacy for medication management, which is really critical for people who
1006 need their – daily medication.
1007 Benefits assistance. So many people are actually eligible for benefits that they don't know how to
1008 access. We have case managers right there on-site. A mailbox so that 1,200 people use the
1009 Courtyard as a address of record. And one may ask, why is that important? Because without an

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1010 address of record, it limits you from getting employment. Some of the individuals need their
1011 birth certificates. They need things to be mailed, important documents, and they can use that as
1012 their address – of record.

1013 Employment assistance, we have Workforce Connection and other workforce partners at the
1014 Courtyard, and I'm pleased to say that 20 of the 35 staff that work at the Courtyard are formerly
1015 homeless individuals.

1016 We also have ID and documentation assistance, which is really important, clothing and then
1017 hygiene items.

1018 Here's a conceptual design. As you can see this, that the permanent Courtyard, that will open in
1019 2021, will be a state-of-the-art facility, and that facility will serve up to 800 guests. It will double
1020 our capacity. And it's located at 314 Foremaster Lane. Adjacent to that, to the west, we will have
1021 a federally qualified health center that will provide comprehensive health care both to the guests
1022 at the Courtyard and the surrounding neighborhoods and critically important in that particular
1023 area.

1024 The City has invested \$20 million in the capital infrastructure, and annual operating expenses are
1025 anticipated to be another six plus million dollars.

1026 In addition to those current services that we're providing now, at the new site we will have a
1027 gathering and sleeping area that will sleep up to 800 guests overnight, and during the day guests
1028 can seek a warm or cool place depending on the weather. We have a guest services building that
1029 will house our intake, our community housing assessment to get people in the regional queue,
1030 which is part of our regional support.

1031 We will have legal and municipal court services. Our own municipal court judges have
1032 approached us already wanting to be a part of the solution and are already trying to figure out
1033 how they can have another specialty court designed to provide additional services to individuals.
1034 Navigators, mailboxes, nonprofit partners. In our day building, it's gonna function as a day room
1035 for disabled and elderly and fragile people experiencing homelessness. Each of you has been
1036 down to the Courtyard. You've seen the number of people that are in wheelchairs, that are on,
1037 that are disabled.

1038 We'll also have showers and toilets that will be permanently available as well as laundry
1039 services. These services, often taken for granted, help guests maintain their hygiene needs.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1040 In the admin building, there'll be space for nonprofit Courtyard operator, our City staff, and
1041 security and also a medication lockbox.

1042 The Courtyard will remain a low barrier shelter. It will continue to provide 24-hour a day, seven
1043 day a week service. And it is a model that could and should be replicated throughout Southern
1044 Nevada, providing greater access to immediate services.

1045

1046 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1047 Would you say that again, please?

1048

1049 **LISA MORRIS HIBBLER**

1050 Yes, Ma'am. I said it could and should be replicated throughout Southern Nevada so it can
1051 provide greater access to immediate services.

1052 So I wanted to provide a high-level snapshot of the outcomes of the programs and services we've
1053 had from fiscal year '19 all the way through the first quarter of fiscal year '20, and this is not an
1054 exhaustive list. It's just giving you a snapshot.

1055 But from mental health and medical services, 234 unduplicated guests received services last
1056 year, last fiscal year, and 55 have received services to date. The 55 unduplicated guests received
1057 1,100 services, and that included mental health and medical referrals.

1058 Our Ticket to Home program, which is our family reunification program, allows individuals,
1059 who have family and/or friends that can verify that they will provide support on the other end,
1060 transportation to where those individuals are. We had 573 households that took advantage of that
1061 last year. That represented 644 adults and 121 children. This year, we've already had 290
1062 households take advantage of that, representing 361 adults and 45 children.

1063 The Courtyard, originally we thought we'd have around 150, maybe 250 individuals staying. Last
1064 year our highest overnight attendance was 296. In the first quarter, we had 346 guests, and since
1065 then, in October, our highest overnight count was 412 individuals.

1066 A hundred and seventy-seven individuals have received benefits last year, and already this year
1067 we're at 95. And then 94 households received emergency housing last year. We are already at 25
1068 just in the first quarter. Forty-five households received rental assistance last year, and already six
1069 have received rental assistance this year.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1070 So the City continues to be actively involved in numerous regional efforts. You heard earlier,
1071 mentioned by Shalimar, that as a part of a regional effort, Southern Nevada reached functional
1072 zero, a status for homeless veterans. And we were one of only 35 communities in three states to
1073 achieve that by the 2015 deadline set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
1074 Development.

1075 Our Office of Community Services Director, Kathi Thomas-Gibson, currently chairs the
1076 Regional Southern Nevada Continuum of Care, which is the regional body recognized by HUD
1077 to coordinate the federal funds that are received for housing and services to people experiencing
1078 homelessness. The County is designated as the lead fiscal agency for that CoC.

1079 Community Services staff also participates in numerous meetings and provides inputs on
1080 programs and grants and systems for the Community Continuum of Care.

1081 All of the guest at the Courtyard are entered into the Homeless Management Information
1082 System, and so what that does is it allows us to see what other services they've had, and it also
1083 allows our partner agencies to see what services were provided at the Courtyard.

1084 The CoC has also designated the Courtyard as one of six sites to participate in a regional
1085 diversion pilot program, which is designed to help prevent people from entering into chronic
1086 homelessness. And chronic homelessness by definition is people who have been homeless for a
1087 year or more.

1088 Today you appointed City Manager Scott Adams to serve with Deacon Tom on AB 73, a
1089 regional working group that will submit a plan to Southern Nevada, from Southern Nevada to the
1090 governor on our collective efforts to address homelessness. But it is worth noting that AB 73 was
1091 our bill. It was the City's bill to create a new revenue stream for affordable housing and homeless
1092 services. That bill was not passed, and it was converted to a report committee.

1093 So contrary to misinformation reported, the City's efforts do not undermine regional efforts. We
1094 complement the programs and services provided with a goal to serve more people expeditiously.

1095 I can stand before you today and tell you every dollar has been leveraged to yield the highest
1096 level of service. The City has demonstrated a commitment of providing critical service to
1097 individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and we will continue to meet people where
1098 they are, to offer low-barrier solutions, and to help people navigate the path from homelessness
1099 to permanent supportive housing or self-sufficiency. Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1100 **BRAD JERBIC**

1101 Thank you, Dr. Hibbler.

1102 I appreciate you taking the time to listen to all of this, and I appreciate the audience as well
1103 listening to it.

1104 This is not an easy problem. This is not a problem that we're gonna legislate our way out of. It's
1105 not a problem that we're gonna spend our way out of. It's not a problem that we're gonna do a lot
1106 of things to get our way out of.

1107 Let me talk about a couple of things, because it's been asked in briefings. Number resources to
1108 enforce this. Resources are an issue with every single law on the books, every single law. Are
1109 there enough law enforcement officers for our drug laws, for our traffic laws, for any law?

1110 If everybody decided to disobey every law, we'd be in a world of hurt. And so the answer to the
1111 question is no. If everybody decides to not follow the ordinance, we'd be in a world of hurt. We
1112 don't expect that. We don't have that right now. We have largely, a large, huge amounts of
1113 cooperation from people who would be subject to this ordinance.

1114 Second, as I said earlier, at some point in time, and this is going to sound just blunt, but it's true,
1115 you don't get a pass from every law 'cause you're homeless. You can't say, if I were to say we
1116 have laws against defecation and urination in public, but you don't have a bathroom. What am I
1117 gonna do? What's happening right now is people are doing it hidden spots. They're doing it in the
1118 shadows. They're doing it in places that people can't see. But you just can't say I'm gonna forgive
1119 it no matter what, when, and where. You can't say that with any law. This is gonna involve
1120 discretion, and it's gonna involve a lot of things.

1121 If you excuse me one moment, I need to grab a piece of paper over here because I want to talk to
1122 you about the way this is going to roll out if you vote for it today. Just give me one moment.

1123 Here is what we anticipate that if the ordinance goes, is adopted, and that's your call, it would go
1124 into effect on November 10th. Between November 10th and January 31st, the following things
1125 would happen. Signs would be posted with the new ordinance provisions letting people know
1126 where camping, sleeping, and lying would be allowed or not allowed.

1127 MORE teams and public safety individuals would be notified of the new regulations. This would
1128 also be a time for training. I've talked with the Sheriff and I've talked with our detention and
1129 enforcement or I should say Office of Public Safety. I'm so old school. It's going to take some

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1130 time to get everybody up to speed on how this all works, and we're prepared to do all that
1131 training.

1132 So during this period of time, until January 31st, there will be no enforcement of any incremental
1133 provision of the law, and that's in the ordinance. The criminal provision does not go into effect
1134 until these things are done.

1135 Operation and Maintenance will continue to escalate downtown cleaning. Community Services
1136 and Public Safety will refine implementation and procedures. And the City will review additional
1137 locations for shelter needs, which I can tell you for a fact, without going into details, we're
1138 looking at right now. We're looking at roof over your head, other buildings where we can
1139 actually put beds for people. And so this continues.

1140 I also want to say one more thing for anybody who thinks that this government is not on top of it.
1141 If Lisa Morris Hibbler can't convince you of that, then nothing else can. But in Clark County, we
1142 have a regional problem. We are the only governmental entity that provides services or has the
1143 services. So the County provides services at UMC, but it's in the City. Everything's in the City of
1144 Las Vegas. We get people from outside our own jurisdiction and we take them, and we're
1145 continuing to build and continuing to address the problem.

1146 With that, I will be happy to answer any questions regarding the ordinance.

1147

1148 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1149 Thank you, everyone from the team that spoke to this. What we asked upfront was that we would
1150 hold all questions from Council first. So I'm gonna open that up, and you were asked to make
1151 notes so that you can address and get responses from the team that presented. So who would like
1152 to start with any questions that you have?

1153

1154 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1155 (Inaudible).

1156

1157 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1158 Pardon?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1159 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1160 (Inaudible).

1161

1162 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1163 What?

1164

1165 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1166 (Inaudible) public comment (inaudible).

1167

1168 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1169 No, no, no. It was the questions from us. We will have closing statements you each can make.

1170 But at this point, if there are any questions for any of the panel that spoke that you have, and then

1171 at the end, we'll have public comment, of course, again. And then we'll have closing comments,

1172 anybody wishing from the Council to make closing comments. And then we will vote.

1173

1174 **STACEY CAMPBELL**

1175 Councilwoman Seaman?

1176

1177 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1178 Are you there Councilwoman Seaman? She's far away. She-

1179

1180 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

1181 Yes. Yes, I am here.

1182

1183 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1184 There, good. Thank you. Thank you. I'm sorry you missed all the, but you do have and your staff

1185 does have the PowerPoint, which has all the data on it, and hopefully they'll be able to transmit

1186 that to you. Do you have any questions of, let's start with you since I forgot you being there. So

1187 do you have any questions that you would like to ask?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1188 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

1189 No, not at this time.

1190

1191 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1192 Okay. And you can hear us all right. So I'm gonna ask our Council, any questions they might

1193 have of Mr. Jerbic or any of our staff that reported. Okay, Councilman Crear, any questions?

1194

1195 **COUNCILMAN CREAR**

1196 I'll have a statement but not a comment.

1197

1198 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1199 You'll have a statement, but no comment.

1200 Councilman Anthony? Okay.

1201

1202 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1203 I'll have a statement.

1204

1205 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1206 Okay. And Mayor Pro Tem will have a statement at the end.

1207

1208 **COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN**

1209 Statement.

1210

1211 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1212 Statement. And okay, please, Councilwoman Diaz.

1213

1214 **COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ**

1215 Thank you, Madam Mayor. One question that keeps coming up in the concerns of my

1216 constituency and the communication I am receiving in my office is the punitive side to this

1217 ordinance in terms of writing citations and potentially arresting folks. And so I just wanna hear

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1218 what we're thinking here.

1219 You know, Dr. Morris Hibbler said that our Courtyard is low barrier, and we take everybody.

1220 But when I talk to folks in the homeless space that are advocates and do the work, they're saying

1221 that this could potentially put more barriers in their place. And so I want to be sure that we're

1222 making informed decisions on this ordinance. And so would this potentially create some barriers

1223 for some homeless who are trying to get reconnected to the workforce, who are trying to get

1224 reconnected to some social programs, that maybe if they have misdemeanors or citations on their

1225 record or an outstanding bench warrant, it's going to complicate matters for them? So I want you

1226 to speak to that Mr. Jerbic.

1227

1228 **BRAD JERBIC**

1229 Yeah, I agree. The bench warrants do complicate things, a lot of people are kept out of the

1230 workforce just because they have a misdemeanor warrant because you can get arrested for a

1231 misdemeanor just like you can get arrested for a felony. And so I understand the issue, and – it's

1232 complicated.

1233 As I said earlier, the – goal here is not to arrest anybody. The goal here is to get people away

1234 from places where they should not be camping. It's inappropriate in these areas that we've

1235 identified. If you agree, that's part of your decision making. If you agree that residential

1236 neighborhoods are not places where people should put tents in front of homes and you agree that

1237 there are places downtown in the areas identified that are sensitive, that you cannot place a tent

1238 that without destroying a business or hurting it, then you have to ask the inevitable question.

1239 What happens if after you use ever gentle means possible, you approach, you bring a MORE

1240 team, you provide services, you provide answers, and sometimes it's not the Courtyard.

1241 Sometimes it's any shelter that's got a bed we would put somebody in. If at that point in time you

1242 say, "No, I refuse to move," then what do you do?

1243 What do you do when one of your neighbors calls you up and says, "Councilwoman, I just have

1244 a homeless person putting a tent in front of my house, and – they're not leaving. I've asked them

1245 to leave." And you'll say, "I'll the MORE teams." And they'll go out, and they'll talk with them.

1246 And then if they don't, then an officer will probably be with them anyway, and then they will try

1247 and, they'll step it up gradually. And if at some point in time they just refuse to move, then

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1248 there's every chance that they will be arrested. Every chance.
1249 What happens after that? You know, at some point in time, you got to take responsibility for
1250 your own actions. And if you were given alternatives and you don't take advantage of them that
1251 is literally what would happen at the very end of the day.
1252 Giving a citation is pointless. It's an option. You can always give a homeless person a citation.
1253 But you know what's going to happen there. It's the inevitable bench warrant. They're not gonna
1254 show up. It's gonna go into warrant. You're gonna have the same situation.
1255 And – so I think they're gonna have to be very, very difficult decisions made in the field.
1256 Sometimes, and I've seen officers do this, sometimes the answer is the person feels put upon.
1257 They feel like they're being pushed, particularly by somebody wearing a badge, and – they stand
1258 down. They say, "We'll come back in an hour. Think it over. If we can help you, we'll come
1259 back." And I've seen police officers do that. I've seen the MORE team do that.
1260 So that's the best answer I can give you Councilwoman is that ultimately, if there were no
1261 cooperation at all, after every other alternative were used, then we would use the police powers
1262 of arrest.

1263

1264 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1265 Okay. Thank you. I guess where we are then we'll go to the public comment. And as you can see,
1266 if you are interested in making comments to support the ordinance, you'd go here. If you are
1267 against the ordinance, please there. We'll give everybody two minutes. Please do not get into any
1268 clapping or any unusual excitement or disagreement, because we, you see the numbers that are
1269 here. And we'd like you all to be very respectful of each other as we finally got to today.
1270 And the one thing I would say is we're in this, and it was stated this morning. We are in this
1271 together. We are trying to create a model here that we can replicate throughout Southern Nevada
1272 so there're beds and resources and a pathway to the lifestyle and integrity and self-respect we all
1273 want. That is what the City has been doing. That's what the Council's been doing, and we have
1274 been working on this enormous challenge for 20 years.
1275 For those who think not, I can assure you. And we have not gotten to a point of creating, and
1276 that's what we're doing now. We are taking small steps to creating a model that we can say to
1277 every municipality and the unincorporated Clark County, be on with us. This is Las Vegas,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1278 Nevada. Let us work together. Let us not criticize and complain and be negative. Let's work
1279 together. That's what this city is all about.

1280 So with that, what we'll do is each person, whichever side you're on, one will come to the
1281 microphone. We'll make sure they're on. And then we'll take from the other side. No comments,
1282 no screaming, nothing or I'm gonna ask the Marshals to escort you out. We don't have time for
1283 that today.

1284 So where we are, you will begin. Then we'll have somebody come here. When the person has
1285 finished, the next in line please get there. And you are absolutely correct, I did say I would
1286 extend that time. But if you spoke this morning, don't make, don't be embarrassed because I will
1287 cite you out. You've already spoken, and that's not right.

1288 So let's go ahead. And if you'll state your name and where you reside, and we'll start with you
1289 Sir, and then we'll go with you Sir. So here we go.

1290

1291 **JOEL LOIZA**

1292 Joel Loiza of Las Vegas, Nevada. I would like to address Miss Councilwoman Diaz's question
1293 that she had asked Jerry earlier.

1294

1295 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1296 Okay, go.

1297

1298 **JOEL LOIZA**

1299 I just want to let you know if you ever want to know the police are getting beat up by the
1300 homeless, go out at 3:00 to 5:00 in the morning, and you will see that when they approach their
1301 tents, the police will give a very specific timeline, and an hour is not the specific timeline that
1302 they give. They give much less. The people are abiding by that because they understand that if
1303 they don't, they're going to get their stuff taken care of and they're gonna go to jail or be cited. So
1304 a lot of homeless people are not motivated by incurring costs, 'cause they can barely live right
1305 now as it is.

1306 So this is not what I wanted to say, but there's a lot here that has gone on, and I just want you to
1307 understand, the whole Council team here, Mayor, I've been part of your Mayor's faith-based

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1308 initiative now for a couple of years, which I thought being a part of that is, you know, working
1309 together as you exclaimed. But I feel like something like this, putting in something that's
1310 subjective, when you have police officers who I don't think they're trained to be room reservation
1311 agents to determine whether that if there's openings or not, and I can tell you I personally
1312 brought somebody here today who last Wednesday it was full. He had nowhere to go.
1313 So if you look at the mere numbers, there is more than twice as many homeless people as there
1314 are places to stay. It makes no sense. If you want to propose something like this, when there's
1315 actual accommodations that makes at least a little bit more sense. But from a fiscal standpoint,
1316 you guys have to look at it. It's been stated, it's been noted on multiple occasions it costs the City,
1317 the taxpayers more money to go ahead and have homeless be jailed than it does to provide any
1318 type of facility or even just bathrooms.
1319 Here's another thing. Circle Park has been closed for I don't know how many years. That's
1320 bathrooms that could be used that taxpayers are paying money for.

1321

1322 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1323 That's it. Thank you.

1324

1325 **JOEL LOIZA**

1326 I saw you push the button.

1327

1328 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1329 I did. Thank you.

1330

1331 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1332 Yes, she did.

1333

1334 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1335 Thank you. Two minutes. Please, Sir, your turn.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1336 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

1337 Holy smokes.

1338

1339 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1340 Right?

1341

1342 **CHRIS KAEMPFER**

1343 Yes, good afternoon, Your Honor, members of the Council. Chris Kaempfer, 1980 Festival Plaza
1344 Drive. I listened this morning to all the comments that were made, and I appreciate and agree
1345 that ultimately the answer lies in many of the things that Brad and others on your staff set forth,
1346 the affordable housing and medical care and affordable prescriptions and available prescriptions,
1347 all of those things.

1348 Being homeless, you've heard that time and again that being homeless is not a crime. Obviously,
1349 it's not, and obviously there's not a person up here that would even suggest that it is or should be,
1350 and nor should it be treated as if it were a crime.

1351 But I have a client to represent, and that client supports this ordinance because homeless
1352 encampments on the sidewalks outside of his business have caused him to lose new customers
1353 and not have repeat customers, because the reality is different than the perception. The reality is
1354 that the homeless don't cause crime and don't affect the customers. They're not there to hassle
1355 them. But that perception keeps them away from that business. That perception is causing him to
1356 lose not just business but force his tenant to perhaps go somewhere else.

1357 So he has asked me to stand up today and say this is a citywide problem to be addressed and that
1358 the businesses that employ our citizens and are such a vital part of our city should be taken into
1359 consideration in trying to resolve that problem because it's honestly very real.

1360 Now that's what I did. That was my obligation. One thing I do want to say. I was very touched by
1361 the gentleman who said he was working homeless, and – I want to make sure that we don't
1362 saddle somebody with-

1363

1364 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1365 Thank you very much. Next, please. You have exactly two minutes, so please stay, watch your

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1366 ticket. Thank you.

1367

1368 **GARY PECK**

1369 Mayor Goodman, Council members, my name is Gary Peck. I reside at 1045 Morning Sun Way.

1370 That was the oddest presentation by the City that I could possibly imagine.

1371

1372 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1373 Excuse me.

1374

1375 **GARY PECK**

1376 I saw the photographs, and, honest to God, for a moment I thought they were photographs taken

1377 in 1998 or 2005 or 2007. It's the same visage that we've been looking at forever. So I appreciate

1378 Chris. I like Chris. I've known him for a while. I get why people are upset.

1379 This is not a real solution. It is just not a solution. I've been here for 25 years. I've spent a lot of

1380 that time fighting with this Council and fighting with other government entities that too routinely

1381 violate the fundamental rights of homeless people. It's like watching the same bad movie over

1382 and over and over again. And passing this ordinance won't make a difference. It's just one more

1383 law that cops and prosecutors can use to sweep homeless people out of sight and out of mind.

1384 I'm sorry, Councilman Stavros, I don't need that either. We're talking about mutual respect.

1385 Anybody who thinks – that homelessness is not criminalized is delusional. Go to the early

1386 appearance court and take note of how many people are arrested for jaywalking, obstructing a

1387 sidewalk, riding a bicycle without a light. It isn't people like me, and it isn't people like the

1388 members of this Council. It's poor people who are stuck on the streets.

1389 And my big take away from that presentation was the admission that we have a serious services

1390 gap and an even more serious affordable housing gap. And what is most offensive to me, I will

1391 just assume someone maybe was misquoted or didn't mean it-

1392

1393 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1394 Sorry. Two minutes.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1395 **GARY PECK**

1396 -in – the paper saying that a whole (inaudible) open-

1397

1398 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1399 Please, next. No, no, two. Please.

1400

1401 **GARY PECK**

1402 -to ensure that they can arrest people.

1403

1404 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1405 You asked. We gave two minutes, please. Yes, Sir.

1406

1407 **GARY PECK**

1408 I'm glad I had two minutes as opposed to 30 seconds.

1409

1410 **CHUCK CALLOWAY**

1411 Thank you, Madam Mayor and members of the Council. I'm Chuck Calloway, Director of
1412 Intergovernmental Services for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Here to my right
1413 is Lieutenant Hatchett, who is in charge of our MORE homeless outreach that we do on our
1414 agency. We're here to let you know that although we know we can't arrest our way out of this
1415 problem, we know enforcement for us is – always a last resort, especially when dealing with the
1416 homeless. Our ultimate goal is to get them help, get them services, get them off the street, plug
1417 them into the resources that are available. But we are here to be partners with the City, and we
1418 will stand by you and work with – you to address this issue moving forward.

1419 One component that I know needs to be discussed and has been briefly discussed in some venues
1420 is a court side to this, where if someone is subject to this enforcement, there is a homeless type
1421 court that can help plug them into those services that are so desperately needed.
1422 So with that, we appreciate the intent behind the ordinance. Thank you, Mayor.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1423 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1424 Thank you very much.

1425

1426 **LIEUTENANT HATCHETT**

1427 Thank you.

1428

1429 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1430 Thank you. Yes, please.

1431

1432 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1433 Mayor Goodman, before I get started, I have a question. Since they, your people had so much
1434 time to talk, could I spend just maybe a moment like rebutting or responding to what they said?

1435

1436 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1437 No.

1438

1439 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1440 No, you won't have time. We can't. We – have to stick to this protocol.

1441

1442 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1443 So two minutes.

1444

1445 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1446 So two minutes. Please make your statements and I'm sure you could ask questions of them
1447 afterwards or maybe if you step aside.

1448

1449 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1450 All right.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1451 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1452 Please, go ahead.

1453

1454 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1455 All right. Well, right now I don't want to address you all as politicians. I want to address the

1456 former you, when you were campaigning.

1457

1458 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

1459 (Inaudible) introduce (inaudible).

1460

1461 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1462 What?

1463

1464 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1465 I want to address Candidate Goodman, Candidate Knudsen. All right. So just take yourself back

1466 to there, to that place.

1467

1468 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1469 Oh, I'm so sorry.

1470

1471 **LUANN HOLMES**

1472 We need your name, Sir.

1473

1474 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1475 Wait, don't, we need your name and your address.

1476

1477 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1478 Oh, Joey Lankowski.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1479 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1480 Thank you, and address.

1481

1482 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1483 89123, born and raised here.

1484

1485 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1486 And all right, so now we can start. Thank you.

1487

1488 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1489 So just imagine one of these reporters when you guys were on the campaign trail asked you,

1490 "What's your stance on bullying," right? I'm sure all of you would say the bullying has got to

1491 stop, right? Bullying has got to go. Well, the definition of bullying is the powerful preying on the

1492 weak. That's the definition of bullying. That is what this ordinance is. And anybody who votes

1493 for this ordinance is the worst kind of bully because you're not even gonna get your hands dirty.

1494 You're gonna send a bully with a badge to go and do your dirty work for you. Okay?

1495 And then let's talk about that for a second. The goons that you're gonna send with guns to round

1496 up these people, like the Gestapo-

1497

1498 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

1499 Like the Gestapo?

1500

1501 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1502 -they've got a proven track record, okay, of escalating instead of de-escalating when people are

1503 having mental health crisis, as we know a lot of people on the streets, I mean, you live on the

1504 streets for a week and tell me you don't go crazy. Okay? So they're products of their

1505 environment. All right. So a lot of it is not even their fault.

1506 But I'm getting off – task here. So people are going to die enforcing this. We already know that

1507 there is no law too small that Metro will not kill you to enforce.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1508 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

1509 No.

1510

1511 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1512 Don't, please-

1513

1514 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1515 As we saw with Byron Williams, who was just killed because he didn't have a light on his
1516 bicycle. Okay? So people will die. This will be on your hands if you vote for it. I pray that you
1517 don't. Each and every one of you Council people, please don't even consider it, because if you
1518 have a conscience, you don't want that on your conscience, because people will die. Metro's
1519 killed people for less. All right.

1520 So that's the first issue. The second issue that I wanna talk about is we don't have enough people
1521 in cages already over nonsense? Every single unit in CCDC, you've got mats laid out in the day
1522 room. Okay? There's already not cells for the people you're trying to lock up now, and you want
1523 to throw more people in there.

1524

1525 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1526 Thank you.

1527

1528 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1529 Yes, Sir. Please.

1530

1531 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1532 (Inaudible) judicial system. Okay?

1533

1534 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1535 Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1536 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1537 There's no room in the judicial system-

1538

1539 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1540 Thank you. Go ahead, please. You have the microphone. It's okay.

1541

1542 **JOEY LANKOWSKI**

1543 It's already overloaded. Am I on, too?

1544

1545 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

1546 No, you're done. Two minutes are up.

1547

1548 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1549 Go ahead, please.

1550

1551 **SCOTT NICOLAS**

1552 Thank you, Council, Mayor.

1553

1554 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1555 Please let's be respectful. I asked you not to do that. We want to make sure you all get your time,

1556 but we are being equitable with everybody's getting two minutes. Be respectful of the person

1557 who has the microphone, please. Thank you.

1558

1559 **SCOTT NICOLAS**

1560 Thank you, Mayor. I'm Scott Nicolas, Vice President of Las Vegas Police Protective

1561 Association. I represent 3,500 officers here in Las Vegas. I applaud the attempt that you're

1562 bringing this ordinance forward.

1563 We had a few questions. Most of those got answered today throughout the presentation, and I

1564 appreciate that. We did have some – concerns about the influx to the City Jail, because most of

1565 these, unless they have warrants, would probably end up at the City Jail.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1566 We had some concerns whether or not the Attorney, the City Attorney would uphold the charges,
1567 the judges would uphold the charges. We also want to make sure that our officers have 24-hour
1568 access, when they do encounter somebody, to the facilities that are available to find out if the
1569 beds are available. But I think the question was answered that the ordinance would be put on
1570 hold if the beds were full, so that would-

1571

1572 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1573 Correct.

1574

1575 **SCOTT NICOLAS**

1576 -pretty much answer that question as well. But that was a concern of ours.

1577 And the other one was how the property would be handled. Excuse me. The transportation of
1578 large amounts of property I think was again answered, and I appreciate that. So I'm gonna get
1579 you home a minute early. As long as these questions can be answered, we support this ordinance,
1580 and we support you, Mayor.

1581

1582 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1583 Thank you very much. And I would say you talk with Mr. Jerbic on those questions if they
1584 weren't addressed during the presentation.

1585 Yes, Sir. Your turn and your name and residence, please.

1586

1587 **DANNY KEENE**

1588 I'm Danny Keene. I live on South Casino Center Boulevard. And I appreciate being heard, and I
1589 appreciate everyone's service here. And I especially want to say how much I appreciate Metro for
1590 the service they do. We need them. But I also want to say that when laws like this come about, it
1591 opens up the cracks for the few bad seeds in the Police Department to take advantage of, and that
1592 concerns me.

1593 And also, oh, time pressure. You know, on, from Charleston to Wyoming and Commerce and
1594 Main, there are 100 trash cans. And where the homeless traverse, there are zero. That's
1595 something to look at. You know?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1596 And so, and the other thing is the Courtyard is wonderful. Thank you for it. I thank you for all
1597 those places. But they're not wonderful if you go live in 'em for three nights, because I live and
1598 work with the homeless every day for the last three years.

1599

1600 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1601 Good. Thank you. God bless you for that. Thank you.

1602

1603 **DANNY KEENE**

1604 And so I know you care, but you don't know what it's like unless you're living it.

1605

1606 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1607 Yep.

1608

1609 **DANNY KEENE**

1610 And so I want to – say please don't create this law because consequences will not work with the
1611 homeless. You need individuals going out to each other, so more programs like that and telling
1612 them their options and – learning to get their trust and to create change that way. That's all I have
1613 to say.

1614

1615 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1616 And that's very true, and it just, it's a question of money and funding so much of the time. Thank
1617 you very much. Yes, Ma'am.

1618

1619 **CAROLYN WHEELER**

1620 Thank you, Mayor, Council members. I'm Carolyn Wheeler, and I'm here on behalf of the
1621 Downtown Vegas Alliance, and I am a resident of Councilwoman Seaman's district.

1622 So what we wanted to share is that when individuals are camping in the public rights-of-way, it's
1623 adversely affecting the businesses that are in downtown. So as a result, the Downtown Vegas
1624 Alliance supports this ordinance because we feel that this is an important and necessary first step
1625 in order to protect the investments that so many business owners are making in the downtown

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1626 area.

1627 We really think that this must be part of a larger, more comprehensive solution to this issue. But
1628 we're hopeful that all of the municipalities, that the regional partners will work together with the
1629 service providers and the public sector to help elevate Las Vegas as a thought leader in
1630 addressing permanent, long-term solutions for this issue. So thank you.

1631

1632 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1633 Thank you. Thank you. We agree. Thank you. Long-term solution. Yes, Ma'am, your name
1634 please and residence.

1635

1636 **DONNA WEST**

1637 Thank you, Madam Mayor, members of the Las Vegas City Council. For the record, my name is
1638 Donna West, and I've been a resident of Clark County for 35 years. I'm standing here today in
1639 opposition of the proposed ordinance 2019-36. I've heard all the testimony today, and I followed
1640 this issue in the news.

1641 I have to say I'm very disturbed to see that this issue has risen to the level of being covered by
1642 our national media. It disturbs me a great deal because it brings disgrace to the City of Las
1643 Vegas, who relies heavily on our reputation.

1644 Today I didn't hear any information from the City staff about working with state government,
1645 county officials, or other local cities. I only see finger-pointing. That won't solve this. I know my
1646 county commissioner and many other elected officials don't support this proposed ordinance.

1647 We need a coordinated, regional response that actually addresses the needs of homeless citizens,
1648 and we've needed it for more than a decade. And now we wanna take quick action and think this
1649 is going to somehow start solving the problem, but it won't. We need to stop before we start
1650 treating our homeless citizens as criminals.

1651 The shelters in Las Vegas are at or near capacity every day. Some shelters turn away those
1652 seeking a bed if they have a drug or alcohol problem. There aren't enough beds that will accept
1653 those in needs. These factors among many others prevent homeless from simply seeking or
1654 securing shelter or services they need.

1655 If fines are assessed, it's unlikely that those cited have the resources to pay them, and so many

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1656 will be jailed. It costs \$170 a day to incarcerate someone in the City of Las Vegas. Once jailed,
1657 these people are going to need the services of our public defenders, and those public defenders
1658 are already stretched thin.

1659 Surely there's better uses for our law enforcement, our legal resources as well as funds instead of
1660 jailing homeless people who have no alternatives. While-

1661

1662 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1663 Thank you very much.

1664

1665 **DONNA WEST**

1666 -the City Attorney would have you believe it is-

1667

1668 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1669 Thank you. Thank you. Yes, Sir.

1670

1671 **PATRICK HUGHES**

1672 Mayor Goodman, Honorable Council members, my name is Patrick Hughes. I'm here to wear two
1673 hats today, first as a resident in Ward 3. As I drive to work every day and I walk around the streets
1674 of my neighborhood, I see the encampments, which I think this ordinance is designed to focus on, of
1675 those who are not willing to go get help, because they're there every day. They don't move. And I
1676 think that's the purpose of this ordinance, and that's the reason I support it from a resident's –
1677 perspective.

1678 My job is though President and CEO of the Fremont Street Experience, and –, as you all know,
1679 there are many, many investments occurring downtown from many businesses, and we need to
1680 protect those, because their doorways are being hampered right now. And – as such, we also, my
1681 job is to drive tourism downtown, that funds the taxes that supports and funds, partially funds the
1682 services, the homelessness services. As such, we are here also to support the ordinance, knowing that
1683 it is just one part of a long-term plan. And also we are willing and looking forward to being part of
1684 the discussions and the plans to create long-term solutions to address the homelessness issue, which
1685 is valley wide.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1686 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1687 Thank you.

1688

1689 **PATRICK HUGHES**

1690 Thank you.

1691

1692 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1693 Thank you very much. Yes, Sir. Your name and your address, please.

1694

1695 **WILL PREGMAN**

1696 Hi. Good afternoon, Mayor and City Council. My name is Will Pregman. Address is 11652

1697 Terenzio Court, Las Vegas, Nevada 89183.

1698 I'd like to address my opposition to this ordinance on the issue of cost and fiscal impact, of which

1699 it's been erroneously reported that there won't be any. The problem I refer you to a Nevada

1700 Independent article from October 17th, in which Tim Burch, Administrator for Clark County and

1701 Family Services was quoted as saying in that article that it takes an average of 13 contacts in order

1702 to establish trust with a homeless person on behalf of a social worker trying to hook them up with

1703 services.

1704 The problem with this is it breaks down that level of trust, possibly leading to more necessity for

1705 contact or makes their job harder in the – totality. That means underfunded or unfunded rather extra

1706 staff time on the behalf of social workers and unfunded extra staff time on behalf of your law

1707 enforcement officers and agencies.

1708 Finally, I would, not finally, I would say also that our HUD funding is also at risk. The grants the

1709 City has received also are contingent upon certain deliverables that are potentially jeopardized by a

1710 system in which people are imprisoned rather than actually given the services they need.

1711 I'd also refer back to the Boise case, that was referred to in earlier testimony, at the Ninth Circuit.

1712 While this attempted remedy to get around this deals with the option of them having a place to stay

1713 this Courtyard, we already know, from the numbers that were reported in the earlier testimony, that

1714 there are not enough beds to deal with the capacity that – homeless people have right now. So what

1715 that leads to is potential lawsuits in which there is miscommunication breakdown between law

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1716 enforcement agencies and the shelters to know whether there are enough beds or there are enough
1717 capacities. That means that the State is gonna wind up footing the bill for a potential federal lawsuit
1718 that is going to be also very costly to the State and to the County.

1719 None of the problems outlined in the PowerPoint presentation are going to be solved by simply
1720 locking people up. We need to have a regional strategy that focuses on further resources and
1721 funding.

1722

1723 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1724 Thank you, and you hit the nail. I think the resources are critical. Thank you very much for your
1725 comments. Yes, Sir.

1726

1727 **LEX ANDERSON**

1728 Thank you, Madam Mayor, Madam Pro Tem, members on the dias. Lex Anderson, 3709 Waterhole
1729 Street. I just have a question for Legal. I was curious why NRS 207.020 wasn't integrated into the
1730 bill. It seems like it would give you the tool to go in for intervention. Then the social services could
1731 go in afterwards and do what they do best. But I was just wondering why the NRS was left out of
1732 this.

1733 We just had a question in our neighborhood. The vagrancy issue is certainly ubiquitous in our area.

1734 We not only have a vagrancy problem, but also a Medicare support and quality of the daytime
1735 Courtyard in our area. You know, how does it look to constituents when residents and stakeholders
1736 and voters have a law applied downtown and not applied out in the suburbs? And maybe it would
1737 be nice if you took another look at this aspect.

1738 But camping is a status, not a behavior. Vagrancy is the behavior. And the NRS would give you the
1739 tool to go in there, so social services could do the right thing, which they do well. So thank you,
1740 Ma'am.

1741

1742 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1743 Thank you very much for your comments. Yes, Ma'am.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1744 **LEX ANDERSON**

1745 I've got to leave, so I'll listen to the rest of it on TV.

1746

1747 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1748 Thank you.

1749

1750 **LEX ANDERSON**

1751 Thank you.

1752

1753 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1754 Thank you.

1755

1756 **KATIE KRICKORIAN**

1757 Hello. My name is Katie Krickorian. I live in Ward 5, and I have lived in Las Vegas for 17 years.

1758 I'm a small business owner, and I actually work out of the Downtown Farmers Market, where we
1759 have homeless people and no problems.

1760 I have volunteered with the Saint Benedict Labre Homeless Ministry, working in direct service of
1761 the homeless for the past four years.

1762

1763 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1764 Thank you.

1765

1766 **KATIE KRICKORIAN**

1767 I volunteer once a week providing hot food, cold drinks, groceries, clothing, and hygiene items to
1768 the homeless and the food insecure in our community. Every week I meet teenagers too afraid of
1769 being returned to abusive households to go to a place like the Courtyard. There are women too
1770 afraid of being discovered by their abusers. There are trans persons that do not feel safe in either of
1771 the options available to them. There are people who have had horrifying experiences in homeless
1772 shelters and fear returning.

1773 While the Courtyard allows pets and allows people to keep their meager possessions, the other

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1774 shelters do not. We are asking them to give up everything they have and not guaranteeing them a
1775 bed the very next night.

1776

1777 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1778 Wow.

1779

1780 **KATIE KRICKORIAN**

1781 Shelters nationwide have had issues with TB, staph infections, influenza, bedbugs, scabies, and
1782 fleas, which can make the struggle of homelessness even worse. And while the Courtyard makes
1783 great promises for the year 2021, we're talking about today. Those services are not currently
1784 available to them.

1785 If you truly believe that forcing any American into a homeless shelter or jail is a good idea, then I
1786 challenge you to have a slumber party there tonight, at the Courtyard. It could be great fun. We can
1787 sleep on those mats that they put on the cold concrete and they refer to them as beds. And we won't
1788 have extra security, and we'll just have what we're wearing, not designer coats or UGGs or comfy,
1789 warm things. And after that evening, tomorrow morning you can tell me if you feel like people
1790 should be forced into the Courtyard.

1791 You are not representing the people of Las Vegas if you allow this-

1792

1793 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1794 Thank you very much. Yes, Sir.

1795

1796 **DAVID GAYON**

1797 Yeah. Hi, my name is David Gayon. We're off of Boulder and Trop. What I'm hearing from
1798 everybody is a need for money. Okay. Fremont Street can become one of the party capitals of the
1799 world. It's got everything the tourists are looking for, with the live music, the casinos, the food, and
1800 all that stuff. But it needs to be cleaned up. The homeless, you can't be tripping over homeless when
1801 you're in the parking areas, walking down Las Vegas Boulevard.

1802 Saturday night my wife and I were walking back from the Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas
1803 Boulevard between Ogden and Stewart, and there was a homeless man shooting up heroin. Third

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1804 time we've seen this. Okay. Now what the tourists do is they take their cell phones, take a picture of
1805 this, and it goes all over the world, and that's killing your business and it's killing your tax base.
1806 The other thing the homeless men do is they're not just sleeping on the street, benign, you know,
1807 down and out people. The homeless men are men. When the female tourists come, they sexually
1808 assault them. They say names. They whistle at them. They do all kinds of things to 'em.
1809 When there's a mentally ill homeless person on the street, which a couple weeks ago, this guy was
1810 going, right in the middle of Las Vegas, on the sidewalk of Las Vegas Boulevard, where the tourists
1811 have to go to get to the Fremont Street Experience, the guy was going, "Let me sleep. Let me sleep."
1812 Scaring the hell out of everybody. So I was the only man there. There were a couple groups of
1813 single woman. They all ran around me, and they all clustered around me like I was going to save
1814 them so they could get down to Fremont Street Experience. So-

1815

1816 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1817 Wait a minute. If you would, excuse me, Sir. I'm going to give him back extra time. If you do that
1818 one more time, whoever does it, you're out. This is enough. I've asked you four times. We're giving
1819 every person on both sides of this the respect and courtesy not to make comments, not to take the
1820 freedom of speech out of the mouths of both sides of this. So one more time, I'm gonna ask the
1821 Marshal to escort as many of you who deny this courtesy to others out.

1822

1823 **DAVID GAYON**

1824 Okay. It's real simple.

1825

1826 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1827 You will give him, please give them back the 10 seconds that he missed.

1828

1829 **LUANN HOLMES**

1830 Okay.

1831

1832 **DAVID GAYON**

1833 It's very simple for everybody here who needs money. That's what everybody's saying. We need

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1834 money. We need money. Okay. Make Fremont Street into a place for happy, shiny tourists from all
1835 over the world to party with other happy, shiny tourists, and they'll spend money like crazy, and
1836 your tax revenues go up and then you have the money you need. It's a cash cow if you clean it up.

1837

1838 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1839 Okay. Thank you. You didn't use your time. Yes, Ma'am, and your name, please.

1840

1841 **LESLIE TURNER**

1842 Hi, Leslie Turner. I am, I live in Ward 5. Basically, I – want to start by saying that we're entering a
1843 new decade. I think that we should be able to come up with a solution that makes sense, like we
1844 should be able to bring all stakeholders to the table, and stakeholders include those that are directly
1845 impacted. And I don't mean, oh, we talked to nonprofits and we talked to, you know, other
1846 government agencies. No, you need to talk to the actual people that are impacted.
1847 So we, as stakeholders, can all come together and come up with solutions, because, you know, the
1848 presentation was very informative, and yet not one solution was – put forth. A solution gets to the
1849 root cause of what's happening. These are just triaging the symptoms that we're seeing on a daily
1850 basis out here.

1851 So also I want to bring up that, 'cause this is the work that I do every day, we're, this is driving mass
1852 incarceration. If you are going to create a law to criminalize people for sleeping outside, then you're
1853 ultimately gonna drive people into the criminal justice system if they're not already in the criminal
1854 justice system. And we need to think about the fact that there's so many people who are actually
1855 homeless because of incarceration, because – of laws like this that criminalize things that are
1856 ultimately out of people's control. They're not, someone, I think it was Jerry, compared like, oh,
1857 yeah, I made a choice to go camping at Mount Charleston. That's not the same thing as having to
1858 survive and sleeping on the street.

1859 And again, I challenge all of ya'll to go sleep at the Courtyard and see what it's really like to have to
1860 actually have to do that. That is your only option.

1861 Also I wanted to say, just like a baseline for any time we create laws, just – as a rule of thumb, if it
1862 creates more harm, then it's bad. So if it's creating harm to populations that are already very
1863 vulnerable, then it's – not good. We need to rethink it. There are numerous solutions to any problem

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1864 that this is, I mean, there's endless solutions that we can come up with if we all put our heads
1865 together.

1866

1867 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1868 Okay. Thank you. What is your name again, please?

1869

1870 **LESLIE TURNER**

1871 Leslie Turner.

1872

1873 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1874 Leslie Turner?

1875

1876 **LESLIE TURNER**

1877 Yeah. I live in Ward 5.

1878

1879 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1880 Okay. Thank you. I'm gonna be in touch with you.

1881

1882 **LESLIE TURNER**

1883 Okay, great. Thanks.

1884

1885 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1886 Thank you. Through you, Councilman Crear. Yes, Sir. Hi.

1887

1888 **DAVE SCHWIEND**

1889 Hello. My name is David Schwiend. I live in Las Vegas. I'm gonna go quick. I have a lot to say

1890 here. I support this ordinance. I think it's both compassionate, but it holds accountability. And thank

1891 you for the opportunity to speak.

1892 I wanna tell you what happened just last week. I deal with homeless all the time down here on

1893 Grand Central. A couple shoppers waiting on the bus to leave, they were done with their shopping,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1894 and a gentleman comes up with all his belongings. They don't speak his language, so he starts doing
1895 this to his head. And they don't understand what he's saying, so he starts doing this to emulate his
1896 brain's blowing out. Okay. So I go ask him to leave because this is disturbing the people that shop
1897 and provide taxes to the city. His response, "Fuck you."

1898 All right. Just like what I'm hearing with this crowd over here that doesn't like what they're hearing,
1899 now I know where this is coming from, because this isn't the first time I get that reaction from
1900 people that I respectfully ask to move on when they're interfering with business, urinating and
1901 defecating on property. Okay.

1902 I wanna know what everybody thinks about what everybody else thinks. Okay. Here's what I hear
1903 from other people. The rest of the people are saying we don't want to step in human feces or
1904 biohazard while walking the city. We don't want to see people openly defecating or urinating – in
1905 public. We don't want to worry about our children being stuck by discarded needles. We don't want
1906 children being accosted, traumatized, does not feel safe because a homeless person is begging them
1907 for money or pleasuring themselves on the street. We don't want to be accosted all over the city by
1908 people asking us for money. We don't want customers leaving our businesses or not coming into
1909 business because someone has camped out on our front door and has relieved themselves there.
1910 There's two sides to this. All right. I think everything you put together is fantastic. The good thing I
1911 see is that they have a choice. Number one, either you move and get your services that you say you
1912 need. Go get them. If you don't, and you don't want help, then you go to jail.

1913

1914 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1915 Thank you. Thank you. Jim. Yes? Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, your name, please, and where you live.

1916

1917 **DEJA WARO-COLE**

1918 Yes, Mayor Goodman and members of the Council, my name is Deja Wargo-Cole. I live in 89110. I
1919 am a student. I am a veteran and-

1920

1921 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1922 Excuse me. Weren't you, didn't you speak this morning?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1923 **DEJA WARO-COLE**

1924 No, I didn't.

1925

1926 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1927 Okay. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

1928

1929 **DEJA WARO-COLE**

1930 Thank you.

1931

1932 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1933 Your name was familiar. Your face not so much. But okay, thank you.

1934

1935 **DEJA WARO-COLE**

1936 I am a student. I am a veteran, and I am also an organizer for Battle Born Progress here in

1937 Southern Nevada. I just want to start by saying that it's very disturbing how we are generalizing

1938 the homeless population as being unwilling to seek mental health services and other

1939 generalizations that I'm hearing. I think that that's just blatantly irresponsible and inappropriate.

1940 I can say from speaking with some of these individuals that one of the reasons they are not

1941 picking up and going into a mental health facility, that are allegedly so easy to get to, and seek

1942 treatment is because they are in fear of losing their belongings and being displaced with a

1943 condition similar to what we are seeing today, that's being proposed today.

1944 The speakers during the presentation say that homelessness is a – complex issue with no simple

1945 solution. So then, warehousing human beings in a Courtyard and criminalizing them for

1946 surviving differently as opposed to how you want them to should not be the first proposal to

1947 tackle such a complex issue. With the lack of space in emergency shelters and disproportionately

1948 high populace of individuals without homes, you are proposing an ordinance that in practice

1949 simply will not work.

1950 Criminalizing homelessness does not end homelessness, and criminalizing poverty does not end

1951 poverty. The affirmation given by this Council presenting that hyper policing of the homeless

1952 population as an appropriate and just solution is an unacceptable and disgraceful display of civic

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1953 leadership, especially given that individuals without homes face disproportionately higher rates
1954 of mistreatment by police especially among those who are people of color.
1955 Restorative justice is clearly not the priority of this Council, no matter how nicely you can create
1956 a PowerPoint, but in the very least gentrification should not be done at the expense of human
1957 bodies.

1958 I understand that this presentation was a blatant display of prioritizing profit – over people, but I
1959 ask that you consider the impact of this ordinance in a capacity that is more than just solving the
1960 issue to satisfy aesthetic concerns and take a moment to reflect on how it will affect all members
1961 of the community, not just those who can fund your campaigns. Thank you.

1962

1963 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1964 Thank you very much.

1965

1966 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1967 Yes, Ma'am.

1968

1969 **PATRICIA MESSINGER**

1970 Yes. My name is Patricia Messinger. I ran for City Council in Ward 5, and I've been in Ward 5
1971 for over 30 years. I also was homeless in 2009. Lost everything, my house, my job, everything.
1972 So I have been on both sides of the aisle before.

1973 What I did do is I picked myself up, went online at – the library, found a job in Dallas, Texas,
1974 and moved to where I found a job. I have worked with the homeless people down at Foremaster
1975 Lane. The Courtyard-

1976

1977 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1978 Thank you.

1979

1980 **PATRICIA MESSINGER**

1981 -is an excellent beginning, and it needs to be more, I mean, it will grow, but you guys have got to
1982 realize that this has got to, it takes time. It's real simple. We have things happening in the interim

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

1983 and stuff like that.

1984 What this bill is doing is if there's – a bed available, then you have a chance. Go to it. Or move
1985 your area to a different area that's not illegal. If you don't want to do that, then, yes, you will get
1986 arrested. There's three things here. So if there's a bed available, which we all know there has to
1987 happen very often, then take it. Move if not. It's real simple. You – are a RV on wheels. It's real
1988 simple. So that's my first point.

1989 My second point is, yes, maybe Foremaster Lane isn't the best place in the world, but at least it's
1990 someplace. If you want to go live in feces and stuff like that, go to L.A., go to San Francisco, but
1991 don't have it being here in my Vegas that I love so much. Thank you very much. Please vote for
1992 this bill.

1993

1994 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1995 Thank you. Yes, Sir. Your name, please.

1996

1997 **TIMOTHY ELIADO**

1998 It's Timothy Eliado. I live in Ward 1. I'm speaking in a position of this bill. Most, and mostly the
1999 reason is I honestly think it's – against human rights, and it's against the law to literally make
2000 poverty illegal in – the sense that I myself have and understand the thin line between living in a
2001 comfortable home and then the next day just wandering around, trying to find a place to live.

2002 And it's because I do have – an illness. I am going through, I mean, I spent years advocating,
2003 whether it's, you know, for cannabis, for the legalization of cannabis, whether it's – for the right
2004 to exist community or the pink community and for the homeless community, because that's one
2005 thing that we all have in common is we're trying to live life with integrity. And just going, just
2006 basically supporting this bill takes that living – integrity out of human beings.

2007 So we have to look at this as a human solution, and we have to look at it for the long-term
2008 solution to this problem. And obviously, this is not sustainable, and we have to look for
2009 solutions. Obviously, funding, it's on the top of the priorities, and I do believe there are so many
2010 alternatives and ways in which this funding issue could be addressed, especially with the sales of
2011 rec cannabis going up each and every single day. Last time I checked, it went up by 2.2 percent.
2012 So there is other, you know, means that is available, and unfortunately the expansion of the

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2013 Courtyard 2021, I mean, we need to act now. So please let's get back to the drawing board and
2014 do what's right. Thank you.

2015

2016 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2017 Thank you, and you are right. We need to act now. You're right. Thank you. Next, Ma'am.

2018

2019 **CINDY PARKER**

2020 Hi.

2021

2022 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2023 Hi.

2024

2025 **CINDY PARKER**

2026 I'm Cindy Parker. I'm 89134. And I-

2027

2028 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2029 Wait, wait, wait. I cut you off by mistake here.

2030

2031 **CINDY PARKER**

2032 Oh.

2033

2034 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2035 I'm trying to cut myself off, and I did you. Now please start again.

2036

2037 **CINDY PARKER**

2038 I'm Cindy Parker. I'm 89134 Las Vegas. I want to thank you for what you have done. And I came
2039 here today and I hope it's a little value of what I'm going to tell you, but Section 10.86.001 really
2040 specifies and tells you, defines what's happening here in the City and what you're trying to do. So
2041 I'm very pro for this ordinance.

2042 I also want to say that I'm a single mom. I – raised two kids by myself. I worked 44 years, and I

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2043 hate admitting, telling people I worked 44 years. It tells you how old I am. But I also want to tell
2044 you that I sit here and I look at what's happening with the people and the homeless here, and I
2045 have sympathy for them. But we're busing in a lot of this homeless, and I don't, they're coming
2046 from Seattle. They're coming from all parts of the country, and we have our own people here that
2047 are Las Vegas people that we should be taking care of. So how do we stop the busing coming in?
2048 That concerns me dearly.

2049 And then our businesses. You watch the businesses here. Without the taxpayers, we're the ones
2050 that are trying to help out with this. Where I live, I pay two indigent taxes on each of my
2051 properties, and I have some rental properties. So I'm paying taxes on that. We also have the
2052 sewer tax or the trash tax that just got approved. So I know money, it's like who's gonna pay for
2053 this, because we want to help these people. But I –, my taxes I'm paying as much as I can, and
2054 I'm still out there working.

2055 I guess businesses grow if the private property is attractive, clean, and safe. So that has to do
2056 with downtown. We have to grow. And then the homeless people have around here, if they want
2057 to sell or they want to move or somebody else wants to buy a home, we do need to protect those
2058 people from it.

2059 So I, and the other part that bothered me was \$236 million, that's including housing, taxes. I
2060 mean, sorry, housing, hospitals, medical care that's already been spent this year in a budget. They
2061 said the budget will probably go up to two hundred, I'm sorry, \$369 million. So it's not as if we're
2062 not trying to help. I do know we need a solution here, but I guess what also concerns me who's
2063 gonna pay for this, because I know I'm trying to. So thank you for your time.

2064

2065 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2066 Thank you very much. Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

2067

2068 **LEAH JUSTINE AIRD**

2069 Good afternoon. My name is Leah Justine Aird, and I currently reside nowhere. So I'm a
2070 different face of the quote/unquote homeless. I just came back from Hawaii, a year in Hawaii to
2071 help take care of a lady that was dying of cancer. It's not all that, because they got the same issue
2072 in Hawaii, and I was in a shelter in Hawaii. It was a nightmare. I was there for three weeks. I left.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2073 I could have been there for six weeks. It was a nightmare.

2074 So with this situation here, just so you know, I graduated from the original Las Vegas High
2075 School. Both of my children were born at home with a veteran midwife if here in Las Vegas. My
2076 son died here in Las Vegas. Okay, so I have a vested interest here in Las Vegas as well.

2077 I volunteer for the Art District, been doing so since 2002, before it really blew up to what it is
2078 now. I took volunteer classes for the Nathan Adelson Hospice. Okay, so I have a vested interest
2079 as well, but I lost my studio apartment on October 10th, working part-time and not being able to
2080 find a second job. Riding a bicycle that somebody slashed both of my bike tires. Working
2081 another part-time, little job to try to pay my phone bill.

2082 So I'm really offended when I hear people try to just cast everybody in this really chronic, severe,
2083 homeless category, because there are people that are working, sleeping in cars, sleeping in
2084 storage units and trying to get through it.

2085 I sent an email to your office about my situation, and even just the response that I got let me
2086 know that they, my email wasn't even read properly because I clearly stated that I lost my job
2087 because I lost my studio apartment, and I also got scammed for \$400 trying to rent a room on top
2088 of it. Okay, so the response was, well, since you, you know, have a job, we can help you with
2089 blah blah blah, but that's not what I said. But it's okay. Obviously they, you know, whoever read
2090 it didn't pay attention to it.

2091 But what offended me the most is that it was suggested that I go to this Courtyard. It's a
2092 nightmare. Clean up the Courtyard, y'all. Clean it up (inaudible).

2093

2094 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2095 Sorry. Yes, Sir.

2096

2097 **LEAH JUSTINE AIRD**

2098 (Inaudible).

2099

2100 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2101 Wait one second for the, okay, yes, Sir.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2102 **DAVE DOZLICH**

2103 Good afternoon, Mayor Goodman and members of the City Council. My name is Dave Dozlich.

2104 I'm the Director of Government Affairs for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce. We are
2105 the largest and broadest based business organization in the state of Nevada. Thank you for the
2106 opportunity to testify this afternoon.

2107 The issue of persistent and pervasive homelessness that faces our community is complex and
2108 requires consistent and sustained efforts from many organizations. The City and the business
2109 community have taken several important steps towards addressing the issue of homelessness,
2110 including support during the 2019 legislative session for the statutory establishment of the
2111 Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing as well as measures to allocate tax
2112 credits for additional affordable housing. Each organization involved in the spectrum of care for
2113 those experiencing homelessness in our city must have the necessary tools and support to be
2114 effective.

2115 Law enforcement must have some legal authority, both to prevent and address crime while
2116 working to connect the homelessness population with City and County services. Safeguards in
2117 this ordinance, including the availability of sleeping spaces at the Courtyard, are a good balance
2118 and keep this ordinance from simply criminalizing homelessness.

2119 This ordinance is a tool needed to address the issue, but we do not see this as an all-
2120 encompassing solution to the problems our community faces. Continued data collection and
2121 cooperation between government and private organizations to provide access to continuing
2122 services will need to be supported in conjunction with this bill.

2123 The issue of homelessness in Las Vegas is more than a talking point for aspiring national
2124 political candidates. It is a daily reality faced by thousands and needs considered, comprehensive
2125 solutions moving forward.

2126 The Las Vegas Metro Chamber is supportive of this ordinance as one more tool in the toolbox of
2127 the City as they attempt to address the issue. Thank you.

2128

2129 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2130 Thank you for coming down. Thank you. Yes, Sir.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2131 **D'ANTHONY BRIMM**

2132 Hi. How're you doing? My name is D'Anthony Brimm. I live in North Las Vegas. I mostly just
2133 came to say that how I view this path we're choosing on how to handle homelessness I don't
2134 think is very effective. I mean, if we begin to just look at the breakdown on communications that
2135 the institution already has, let's look at police. I mean, on average about, at any given time about
2136 20,000 people are wrongfully convicted. And on top of that, on average, I'm sorry. I've had
2137 friends myself who were in jail because they couldn't pay for a speeding ticket, and stayed in jail
2138 extra four to five days because somebody didn't come and get them. So, I mean, they were paid
2139 out of course to the courts, and that's how a lot of people solve money is through, I mean, a lot of
2140 problems is through money. But I still think that's wrong, and it shows that there can be a
2141 breakdown in communication in an institution such as the police itself.
2142 So if we can't expect for people to be put out of jail when they're supposed to be put out of jail,
2143 then how can we expect them, the police to communicate effectively with these separate
2144 organizations to know exactly when they're outta beds? So let's say they're outta beds, or they're
2145 not outta beds yet at 8:00, and that's the last time you got updated. But now it's 9:15, and you see
2146 a homeless man and now it's time to take him away. Oh, okay, but last time we checked, the beds
2147 were open. He goes down and now they're not open, and now you made him move. Now again,
2148 somebody who didn't have power, who is now not viewed as somebody who's, never mind.
2149 You know what, just, I'm gonna end it right there. Just make sure what you do you do with your
2150 heart. Thank you.

2151

2152 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2153 Thank you. You have. Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

2154

2155 **RENAE BOORMAN**

2156 Hello, City Council and Mayor Goodman. I used to live in L.A.

2157

2158 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2159 Your name, please.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2160 **RENEE BOORMAN**

2161 Oh, Renée Boorman.

2162

2163 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2164 And where do you live?

2165

2166 **RENÉE BOORMAN**

2167 I live right now in Paradise Palms.

2168

2169 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2170 Okay.

2171

2172 **RENÉE BOORMAN**

2173 And I'm just selling my house right now, deciding where I want to stay from there on. I used to
2174 have a manufacturing business in downtown Los Angeles, right where Skid Row was, and it was
2175 terrible. It destroyed businesses. Places burned down. And the City Council there just kicked the
2176 ball down the road, and now it's a city you can't live in anymore.

2177 I came here to have a nice life, and I see the same thing happening. I think this ordinance is
2178 needed. It gives the City the tool to deal with it in a way that it can bring people to support
2179 services. Or if they really resist, they don't want to criminalize anyone. I understand that. But
2180 maybe they can do community service, whatever there is available. But you have to have tools to
2181 deal with it, and you don't have it unless you have that law.

2182 By the way, you have an excellent City Attorney. I've never heard such a really good report. I
2183 just listened today. He got really into every aspect, especially the involuntary commitment if
2184 people are mentally sick. I had that with my own mother when she had Alzheimer's.

2185 Those are really big issues, and they have nothing to do with just what's happening here. The
2186 City needs to take care of the people who make the City a livable place. The rest of the people,
2187 they will have to be dealt with through this law. But they're not making the City livable. I came
2188 here to live here, not to be in the same situation.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2189 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2190 Thank you.

2191

2192 **RENÉE BOORMAN**

2193 I strongly urge you to pass that law. I will move into the McNeill Estates. Thank you.

2194

2195 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2196 Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

2197

2198 **MARIA TERESA LIEBERMAN**

2199 Good afternoon, Mayor and members, Councilmembers. My name is Maria Teresa Lieberman. I

2200 live in 4540 Standing Bluff Way. I live in Ward 4. Hopefully, I don't get any headshakes from

2201 my Councilman. But I changed my testimony about five times in my head, just so one I'm not

2202 repeating what people have said already, and two because I really want to impress upon you

2203 what we're dealing with here.

2204 We saw the presentation, and we have heard some generalizations about our homeless

2205 population. And I think we can all agree that we call it an issue, we call it a problem, but these

2206 are people that need help. And I want to impress upon you my experiences as a person that has

2207 lived here most of her life and someone that grew up around homeless people. I went to Catholic

2208 school, and our field trips were to homeless shelters to talk to them, to see them as human

2209 beings. And I hope that you see them as that. And this ordinance, sadly, as long as it has an

2210 aspect of criminalization, it takes away their humanity. And I hope you do not do that.

2211 And I also want to, two more things, tell you about a man that I met who wanted to be here. His

2212 name is Dennis. Dennis was a veteran. He served his country overseas. Sadly, when he came

2213 back, he had substance abuse issues and was homeless most of his life after that. Luckily, he is

2214 eagerly awaiting a Bank of America card so that he can hopefully have a banking account and

2215 get a life together. And when we told him about this ordinance, he got scared. He got scared he'd

2216 go to jail and everything that he has worked so hard for would be taken from him.

2217 So I ask that you think of him, and I also ask that you think of Metro that is already stretched too

2218 thin. I know they came up here, but as someone that has had to call Metro and always hears from

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2219 officers that do come saying we had to deal with 50 other things and it took us hours to get here.
2220 I – hope you see these two things, that we're dealing with people that may not be able to deal
2221 with this the way we need them to. Thank you.

2222

2223 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2224 And please tell your friend to go ahead and contact Arnie Stalk and the Veterans Village-

2225

2226 **MARIA TERESA LIEBERMAN**

2227 Veterans Village.

2228

2229 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2230 -who spoke earlier this morning. Thank you.

2231

2232 **MARIA TERESA LIEBERMAN**

2233 Okay, thank you.

2234 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2235 Yes, Ma'am. Ma'ams.

2236

2237 **JANE KATEN**

2238 Hello, Jane Katen, and I'm here with Hillary Klopfer. We are here on behalf of our owner, who
2239 owns a Class A premier building on 4th Street in downtown Las Vegas. Encampments, people
2240 sleeping on sidewalks, people sleeping in alleyways are a huge impediment to the activities of
2241 trying to bring businesses to downtown Las Vegas. And it's – as hard to keep our existing tenants
2242 in our building because of the increasing homelessness surrounding the building and the
2243 walkable areas to the amazing amenities that have been brought downtown Las Vegas.

2244 I applaud the City for their efforts with the MORE team and the marshals 'cause they have been
2245 a great assistance to our leasing efforts. We support the ordinance. Thank you.

2246

2247 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2248 Thank you. Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2249 **HILLARY KLOPFER**

2250 Thank you.

2251

2252 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2253 Thank you. Yes, Sir.

2254

2255 **TIMOTHY UNDERWOOD**

2256 My name is Timothy Underwood. I've been a resident here since 1965, graduated from Western
2257 High School, and I spent about 15 years with Catholic Worker with the poor and the homeless,
2258 volunteering for them. And then recently I was a resident of homeless shelters in Denver and
2259 here for 18 months. And I thought a lot about this.

2260 And the problem isn't a lack of laws. This Council has repeatedly criminalized the poor. You've
2261 made it illegal at times to feed the poor in the, in parks. You had minimum wage laws where
2262 we're not allowed to work at a level that we're able to perform at. So you exclude us from the
2263 marketplace.

2264 Then you have housing ordinances, which are raising the cost of housing. Across the entire
2265 nation, the cost of housing is high because we have laws restricting the free market, and they are
2266 crushing us. People are trying to live and get by. The problem is economics. It's a lack of money
2267 caused by government intrusion, and it's not having enough money to pay my housing because
2268 you've driven the prices of homes way too high.

2269 And this law criminalizing someone for sleeping on the sidewalk is bad. It's shortsighted. You're
2270 not looking at the root problem. You're just covering one thing up with another and another, and
2271 now we've got this big FUBAR, where there's people on the streets dying because of public
2272 policy that this Council enacts. It's suffering that must stop. And thank you for letting me speak.

2273

2274 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2275 Thank you. Yes. Hello.

2276

2277 **RAYMOND FLETCHER**

2278 Good afternoon, Mayor Goodman and Mayor Pro Tem Fiore. Raymond Fletcher for the record. I

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2279 live in Ward 1.

2280 I come out here to support this ordinance. First and foremost, I heard so many people who were
2281 decrying you this morning. You are one of the most compassionate people I've ever had the
2282 privilege of meeting. So thank you for that.

2283 I come out here in support of this ordinance not only for myself, but for Hercules. As we go
2284 about Las Vegas, you know, I don't want him to step on a drug needle. I've told you stories
2285 before of seeing people urinating and defecating right outside of City Hall. I see outside of
2286 Bonneville BTC people have tents set up. I've had a homeless person pass out in my driveway.
2287 You know, I am a person with a disability. I don't receive a penny of government subsidy, and I
2288 work. I find a way to do it.

2289 What I'm hearing is people saying you're criminalizing being poor. That's not it. You're holding
2290 people accountable for the choices that they make. You're giving them an opportunity to move.
2291 You're not assessing the penalties tomorrow. They're not going into effect until February 1st.
2292 You have laid out a system to begin with. You did not come out and say this is what we have.
2293 This is it. You're saying this is the beginning. You have a place where people can get a license.
2294 You have a place where they can get some medical help. You got a place where they can store
2295 their belongings so they can go get job training, so they can go get the things that they need to
2296 do. But what I'm hearing is we don't want to do that. That is the bottom line of what is truly
2297 being said. We want our way and no one else's way.

2298 You're not saying, hey, you can't go anywhere throughout the entire city of Las Vegas. You're
2299 saying in these areas outlined and these areas detailed, do you want to walk outta your door and
2300 step on human feces? No, no one wants to do that. So why should people even be opposed to
2301 coming out there and having that?

2302 I fully, wholeheartedly support you and this ordinance. I implore my Councilmember and
2303 members of the Council do what is right for our community. This is a perfect first step. Thank
2304 you, Your Honor.

2305

2306 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2307 Thank you. Yes.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2308 **LYNN BOLAND**

2309 Good afternoon. Good afternoon. My name is Lynn Boland. I've lived in Ward 5 for many years,
2310 Corridor of Hope adjacent. Councilman Crear, I've seen profiling directed at myself just for
2311 living in Ward 5, homeless corridor adjacent. In the last few days, I've seen like multiple police
2312 cars. One man, a neighbor I recognized, just on the hood of a police car, who when I drove by 10
2313 minutes later was released. But I mean, this is what entrusting LVMPD with discretion in these
2314 matters, I don't think is a great idea, from what I've seen.

2315 I feel like everyone here has intelligence and a sensibility that can contribute to the discussion,
2316 but I think what we need to do is deal with difference in definition of what Vegas is. Vegas to
2317 someone who's been a benefactor and beneficiary of big business, and I have to add vice-driven
2318 big business at that, is going to be different from the experience of someone like many of the
2319 people here, who are the casualties of that kind of economic construct.

2320 I want to just create space for the people to whom, for whom this is not this is not the Vegas of
2321 the PR campaign. I want to say that this is the wrong historical moment to be criminalizing
2322 people, to be hiding the evidence, or in the tradition of the Cosa Nostra to be disposing of the
2323 bodies, because that's what the homeless population represents. These are evidence that the PR
2324 campaign belies, is in defiance of, is in conflict with the realities of many people who live here,
2325 here, not just the legal definition of a city, but an ecological construct, a social construct.

2326 Communities overlap and intersect and sometimes are in conflict.

2327 What happens here, what is condoned here, what is purchased here in large and small
2328 transactions, legally and illegally, what live and die here are ordinary people, men, women and
2329 children.

2330

2331 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2332 Thank you very much. Yes, Sir. And if you would remove your hat, I'd appreciate it. Thank you
2333 so much.

2334

2335 **STEVEN DEMPSEY**

2336 Sorry. Didn't remember it long enough. I would like to make people aware of some of the good
2337 thing or some of the things that may be questionably good. The city pool comes to my mind.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2338 There's a sign there, "Restrooms for paying customers only." I asked the employees if they were
2339 interested, like in San Francisco, people taking a dump in the side, in the parking lot or, you
2340 know, I don't see, I haven't gotten to the guy in charge of that sign yet, so I don't know if it can
2341 be changed or not. But I would like him to consider it.

2342 The lady said about the pets at the – parkway or the shelter, and she's right. The pets are kept
2343 there, and usually they don't, don't worry because they usually don't bark at each other for much
2344 over two hours. You know, and you can get a couple hours sleep. You know, you'll probably just
2345 sleep through the last barking barrage that usually starts about 5:00 in the morning.

2346 I want to ask, Mayor – Goodman, have you seen the article "Zombies homeless swarms are
2347 being weaponized"? 'Cause I spoke to Mr. Jerbic. I was dead set against this when I first heard it.
2348 After his presentation, I've softened it a little. And if he would be willing to guarantee me that
2349 there's reform and oversight over things that don't come out the way they're supposed to, I'd go
2350 for that.

2351 I noticed, when I was watching Trey Gowdy and Senator Nunes from Utah, I'm big fans of both
2352 of them. And they're on the Oversight and Reform Committee, and that's what we need. When
2353 something goes wrong, there has to be a way to do it. You can take your dog there. But maybe
2354 you ought to take care of the dog so he doesn't bark all night long. Just a thought.

2355 Resources, I guess that'll probably be the last point, and we all need money. But unfortunately,
2356 Americans don't – have any money. We have Federal Reserve notes. December 23, 1913, it came
2357 into being for one major purpose, control inflation. You know what the 1913 dollar is worth?
2358 One penny. So it's only lost 99 percent. What could go wrong? Yet that's the fourth time in the
2359 history of this country that this has happened and a long time we've put up with it.

2360

2361 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2362 Thank you. Thank you, and would you repeat your name for our record?

2363

2364 **STEVEN DEMPSEY**

2365 Okay. It's Steven Dempsey. The group is We Are Change Las Vegas.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2366 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2367 Thank you.

2368

2369 **STEVEN DEMPSEY**

2370 And – I'd like you to send me an email and I'll send you a copy of that article on the homeless
2371 being weaponized.

2372

2373 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2374 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Can you give it? Yes, Ma'am, please.

2375

2376 **BRICEIDA CASTRO**

2377 Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Briceida Castro. For the record, that's spelled B-R-I-C-E-I-
2378 D-A Castro. I live in unincorporated Las Vegas, but I was born and raised here. I'm an Economic
2379 Justice Organizer with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. They've been here in
2380 Nevada for 25 years, though I've only been with them for two.

2381 When I first started, I started off as a canvasser, where I canvassed right down the street off
2382 Carson, and on one side of the apartment complex I spoke to a three-time business owner and on
2383 the other side I spoke to a veteran who was packing. Not only was he a veteran, but he was
2384 disabled and was having a hard time packing his own things. I was very fortunate enough to be
2385 able to spend some time with him and just chat with him about what he was going through. The
2386 rent had gone up \$400, so therefore he could not afford that.

2387 I understand that there is gentrification going on and that this is economic development. But
2388 because of that, it's leaving a lot of our community displaced. And I do understand that there is a
2389 Courtyard, but those conditions can be dehumanizing, especially if you have a mental illness.
2390 You know, I keep hearing that if we don't want, if these people aren't happy with – the policies,
2391 then they can move. But that's not the kind of state that we are. Assemblyman Edgar Flores said
2392 during this session that there is a welcome sign in every – city, which is true, and that really has
2393 stuck with me because we welcome everybody.

2394 And this, we work with, PLAN works with national coalitions that experience similar issues.

2395 There is a program out there that talks about funding. We can work with different departments

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2396 like HUD and the Department of Transportation that I would really like and appreciate that you
2397 would take a look at, and that's called Homes Guarantee. And you can check that out at
2398 homesguarantee.com.

2399 The last thing that I just want to mention, briefly, is I want you to just look at all of these
2400 beautiful people. This community that's here, I want you to take a good look at them and
2401 remember the faces that also were here this morning. Some that walked away. And I just really
2402 want you to look at these people and – take that in and remember their faces when you make that
2403 decision. Thank you so much.

2404

2405 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2406 Thank you. Okay. Please next.

2407

2408 **ASBURY EDENS**

2409 Hi, Mayor Goodman and Councilmembers. For the record, my name is Asbury Edens, and I
2410 reside in 89122. I was watching the live stream while I was at work this morning, and I ended
2411 my work day to come down here because I was so moved and so humbled by the people that
2412 were out here protesting this ordinance and here speaking in public comment and supporting the
2413 community.

2414 Two major points that I just had to make my voice heard today. This ordinance is criminalizing
2415 poverty plain and simple. There is no way around that. No way around that.

2416 The second point I want to make is the whole country is watching you guys right now. The
2417 whole country is watching Las Vegas. As you know, this has become a national issue. You have
2418 the opportunity today to do the right thing and vote no on this ordinance. And honestly, if you
2419 vote yes, shame on you. Thank you.

2420

2421 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2422 Thank you.

2423

2424 **WILLIAM DRENNAN**

2425 Well, good afternoon.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2426 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2427 Hi.

2428

2429 **WILLIAM DRENNAN**

2430 My name is William Drennan. I'm currently on 4th and Clark. Now I've only been here since

2431 May. One problem I think you have is you can't category, categorize all the homeless in one. We

2432 have educated, uneducated. We have mentally ill, which they do function. Putting them in a

2433 place which it's just not cleaned down at the Courtyard and Catholic Charities. Bedbugs and

2434 body lice, I mean, maybe if you go to Cambodia, but not here. We need about four more

2435 Courtyards – throughout the city. You cannot put everybody in one place, because certain people

2436 just don't get along.

2437 To try to do something right now, because I really do not like seeing the tents, people laying

2438 outside. There are options, areas where people could put up tents away from the city. Right now,

2439 this ordinance is really just gonna push it out away from the city, and someone else is going to

2440 have to deal with it and it's going to be worse because there will be less bathrooms to go to. I

2441 mean, we have had a lot of time, but it's going to get worse next year when the Raiders come

2442 here. And you have to do something now, or it's gonna be a problem for everybody, and no one's

2443 gonna be safe, not the people who live here and not the tourists. Thank you.

2444

2445 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2446 Thank you.

2447

2448 **CURTIS MENIFEE**

2449 My name is Curtis Meniffee. I think I stay in Ward – 5. I just kind of wanted to come up and say

2450 that this ordinance isn't really good for the mindset of some of my colleagues that are homeless.

2451 I'm blessed right now, but there's times that I mean I can be back on the street like in a second if I

2452 do the wrong thing. And there's times where you're sick or you're just not feeling well, and you

2453 don't want to stay in the shelter. Like every five seconds there's a cough, there's a laugh, there's,

2454 it's very, it's not a good place to sleep, you know, definitely after you came back from a long

2455 day's work.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2456 I'm kind of one of the ones that got swept under the rug, where I have a passion, but I'm not
2457 really trying to work. So I'll just end up in the situation where if I'm put out on the street or, and
2458 staying out there, one day I might feel froggy. I might be angry enough to have a confrontation
2459 with the police and just end up in jail. I'm not saying it's something I want, but you know people
2460 have mood swings at times, you know, so things can happen.
2461 I really don't think it's a great idea. That's all I got to say.

2462

2463 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2464 The county, or the Clerk, I'm sorry missed your name. I know you're in Ward 5 you said, and you
2465 said your name, but they didn't get it, please.

2466

2467 **CURTIS MENIFEE**

2468 Curtis Menifee.

2469

2470 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2471 Thank you. I'm so sorry. Yes, Ma'am.

2472

2473 **ANNETTE WALKER**

2474 Good afternoon. My name is Annette Walker. I am in 89107, Ward 1. I would like very much to
2475 actually offer some solutions.

2476

2477 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2478 Good.

2479

2480 **ANNETTE WALKER**

2481 I would like very much, I live at the Arthur D. Sartini Plaza. This is a senior building with 14
2482 different cultures. Every single elected official always come through our building. And I want to
2483 also say that I listen to the Unity in the Community. And one thing that Mr. Ramadan always
2484 says, he says the citizens are responsible for our community. And I want to take that
2485 responsibility because I feel very responsible.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2486 My forefathers are the original founders of Grambling State University, and I'm very proud to
2487 say that I was raised by the elderly, so I feel very responsible for those people who are there. I
2488 would like for everyone to think about, if you have a mental illness, but at the same time if you
2489 cannot speak the language. You call 911, and they say we don't speak Japanese.

2490 I attend a Vegas adult daycare. I invite everyone to please do a tour. The way that these people
2491 treat you, they heal you just because they care about you.

2492 So along with the Housing Authority, Councilwoman Diaz and Mr. Crear, who are on that City
2493 Council, and of course we just was at that particular meeting, it was so explosive. It was very
2494 explosive, and it's because of we're having resources, but we're not having good stewards.

2495 So I would like to propose that we have multicultural, community organizing block party
2496 Sundays. Every Sunday we have-

2497

2498 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2499 Thank you. And if you have more suggestions, and you mentioned either to contact us through
2500 the internet with your suggestions.

2501

2502 **ANNETTE WALKER**

2503 I shall. Yes, we want solutions.

2504

2505 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2506 We like positive solutions. Thank you.

2507

2508 **ANNETTE WALKER**

2509 Thank you. Thank you for your service.

2510

2511 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2512 Thank you. Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

2513

2514 **MARGARET OAKS**

2515 My name is Margaret Oaks, and I live in I don't know the ward, but Summerlin. And I am a

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2516 retired professor of social work at UNLV, and I've also worked a number of years in mental
2517 health. And in the '80s, I worked for Skid Row Mental Health, the Los Angeles Men's Place,
2518 which was the center for the mentally ill men. And I just would say that I would like to
2519 congratulate everyone on the programs you are doing or attempting to do at this point. That's a
2520 really good – start to everything.

2521 But I just want to say that as the man who talked about, the gentleman who talked about all the
2522 complexities of mental health and homelessness, well, I can say that that was the simplicities of
2523 it. It is many, many thousands times more complex. And these people have very different
2524 personalities, stemming from all sorts of traumas in their life. I mean, you know, you think, we
2525 think we're sympathetic for the homeless veterans and their traumas, but a lot of these peoples,
2526 their lives are based on traumas. And that – I think that – the, that it's difficult, you know, if you
2527 start having police coming out and threatening them. You know, in LA, when I worked in Los
2528 Angeles County Mental Health, when we went out to try to hospitalize someone who was crazy
2529 and somebody called, we went police officer and social work together. You don't send, I mean,
2530 police officers are not trained to deal with mental health, and social workers are not trained to
2531 deal with, you know, violent behavior. So together they work a lot better. And-

2532

2533 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2534 Thank you. Thank you. Your points are well taken.

2535

2536 **MARGARET OAKS**

2537 Okay. I have another-

2538

2539 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2540 Appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you. That's the two minutes. Thank you.

2541

2542 **MARGARET OAKS**

2543 I was wondering where – are these other places we're going to send them?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2544 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2545 Well, that's what we're working on. So that's all part of the future. Whoops, am I on? Yes.

2546

2547 **BRANDON SCIENSKI**

2548 Hello.

2549

2550 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2551 Wait. You're not on for some reason. Hold on one sec. There you are.

2552

2553 **BRANDON SCIENSKI**

2554 Hello. My name is Brandon Scieniski, and I live in area code 89101. I was born and raised here.

2555 For most of my life I have lived here. I was born at the Women's Hospital over there, and I went

2556 to Valley High School. But during my time in high school, my mom who was on disability, she's

2557 a single mother, she – made mistakes in her past, but she tried her hardest to provide for me. One

2558 – month, her check just lapsed, and we didn't have a place to stay. I was on the street for three to

2559 four months, and then we had so much trouble finding an apartment because of the way that the

2560 current system works, where you have to make three times the amount of rent.

2561 So I find it abhorrent that we're going to go around criminalizing the homeless because they do

2562 not have a place to stay. And the fact that we're pushing, like it's only certain areas of the city, it's

2563 just showing that the rich do not want to look at this problem. They do not want to see it. They

2564 want to push it out of sight, out of mind so that they don't have to do anything about it. And then

2565 the people who gave (inaudible) an answer, I bet you the ones that they say "fuck you" to the

2566 homeless, I bet you those are the same ones that disrespect working-class families and that

2567 disrespect the workers like fast food workers. These are the same people.

2568 We have billionaires on the Strip who influence our elections. We have Sheldon Adelson who

2569 runs a methadone clinic, and they do not lower the doses on those people. They raise them. They

2570 want to keep them addicted.

2571 This is a problem, and I understand it's not a simple solution. There is no simple solution. But by

2572 criminalizing it, it's not the answer. We also criminalize the homeless by outlawing panhandling,

2573 by giving them excessive fines, by doing all sorts of other things. It's a crime to be poor in this

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2574 country, and it is wrong. And if you guys vote no, or vote for – this thing, we – the people see
2575 that and we will take your seats and you will no longer serve us. Thank you very much and have
2576 a wonderful day.

2577

2578 **JUSTIN JONES**

2579 Good afternoon, Mayor and members of the City Council. Justin Jones, 89178. However, I do
2580 work downtown across the street on the tracks. I apologize I'm a little nervous. I've never
2581 testified in front of the City Council before, but I wanted to come over today after watching a lot
2582 of the proceedings on TV during Zoning Commission this morning and just reregister our offer
2583 from the County Commission to continue to work with the City Council towards a solution.
2584 As you are aware, Clark County is certainly committed to addressing homelessness throughout
2585 our valley here. We are the designated social service provider for the entire county. And earlier
2586 this year, the County Commission devoted an additional \$12 million of marijuana fees to address
2587 homelessness in our community.

2588 One of the things when I got elected last year that I wanted to make sure that we work better on
2589 was better relationships between the County Commission and the City Council, and I've had the
2590 good pleasure of sitting down with Mayor Goodman and with other members of the City Council
2591 and also working with several of you on the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition in an
2592 effort to continue these efforts to set aside some of the bad feelings that existed previously
2593 between the City and the County in an effort to move forward.

2594 I know that our Chair has certainly made offers to continue to have joint meetings on this issue
2595 and to work on homelessness collectively. As has been referred to before, the legislature asked
2596 that the jurisdictions work together under AB 73 on a working group for homelessness. I had the
2597 opportunity to attend the recent meeting last month, in which the City and the CoC made their
2598 presentations. There was some questions that were raised with regards to this ordinance, but it
2599 was not part of the presentation. In fact, the discussion of this ordinance was shut down during
2600 that period.

2601 I would suggest that the working group is the real opportunity for the City and County and other
2602 jurisdictions to come together and make sure that we work together. That's our-

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2603 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2604 Thank you, Mr. County Commissioner. You're just, all of us, we're all the same. Two minutes.

2605

2606 **JUSTIN JONES**

2607 Understood.

2608

2609 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2610 I'm sorry.

2611

2612 **JUSTIN JONES**

2613 Let's work together.

2614

2615 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2616 And I do want you to know that I invited all the County Commissioners, but you had jobs today

2617 that you had to attend, to have you here but also to provide to you that there is a link that all the

2618 County Commissioners and our wonderful Chair, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, I had been texting with

2619 her to let her know to please watch here from everybody, and we really appreciate it. Thank you

2620 so much.

2621

2622 **JUSTIN JONES**

2623 Of course. Thank you, Mayor.

2624

2625 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2626 Thank you.

2627

2628 **DAYVID FIGLER**

2629 Hi.

2630

2631 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2632 Hello.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2633 **DAYVID FIGLER**

2634 My name is Dayvid Figler. I live at 1302 South 6th Street. I also work at 550 East Charleston,
2635 which is about three blocks away from there.

2636 I come to you like my neighbor, Patrick Hughes, with a couple of different hats. One is as the
2637 President of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood. We had a meeting. Councilwoman Diaz
2638 was there. We talked about it before, during, and after this specific ordinance. I also come to you
2639 as an advocate, somebody who volunteers and represents quite a few people pro bono out of the
2640 Courtyard as well as through Legal Aid at a quarterly legal clinic at the Rescue Mission.

2641 So what I want to do first, and I know its limited time, is to amplify what the official Metro
2642 Police position was is that they certainly endorsed the intent of the ordinance. And I think that
2643 needs to be amplified because they didn't say that they endorse this ordinance. And I think as
2644 somebody, and I'll try to delineate my hats, as somebody that works with the criminal justice
2645 system and someone who served as a municipal court judge in this jurisdiction, it is an unwise
2646 move to turn first, for all the societal ills that were presented, to turn to the criminal justice
2647 system. It is the worst fit that you can possibly have to do so.

2648 And so with regard to that, I know a lot of people on this Council don't think that a lot of people
2649 are going to be arrested under it. I think that your intent, just like Metro said, is a good intent.

2650 But its – wrong minded because you don't, like you don't point a gun at someone unless you
2651 intend to use it. You don't point an ordinance through the criminal justice system at human
2652 beings unless it's intended to be used, and it will be used. And it will disrupt quite a few people's
2653 lives. We want something to happen, but there are so many unintended consequences. This is the
2654 worst forum to discuss these things. There needs to be town halls. There needs to be more
2655 discussion. There needs to be more partners at the table.

2656 So I invite you not to put the cart before the Courtyard and not to call the Courtyard a shelter,
2657 'cause it's not because it doesn't provide shelter from the elements and it's not beds. You got to
2658 stop calling it a shelter. The Ninth Circuit is not going to consider it a shelter, and you should
2659 consider taking it out of the ordinance.

2660

2661 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2662 Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2663 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2664 Come on. Let's stop it. Let's, I'll just cut off all your comments, and I've noticed who's been
2665 clicking and who's clapping, and you just won't be allowed to speak. That's it. Any more, any
2666 more. Yes, Sir. Please your name

2667

2668 **JOSE MACIAS**

2669 Hello. My name is Jose Macias. I live in Las Vegas 89108. I'm a community organizer. I've been
2670 organizing in Las Vegas for over 10 years.

2671 Since this ordinance was proposed, I'm gonna be honest I'm hurt, and I know my community in
2672 Las Vegas is hurt as well. It's – not fun to be here, and it's a shame that we are here today and
2673 this ordinance was proposed in the first place. What's even more disturbing is the way we hear
2674 the other side refer to other human beings, using words to diminish them and that it's – okay for
2675 them to get jailed as the solution.

2676 But what is beautiful is to see that there's still people that care, and we saw that today from a
2677 community led rally in the morning to everyone who came to share their story and support the
2678 community that has been hurting for so long now.

2679 You can't make decisions for someone if have never lived those struggles. And you can't make
2680 the decisions or change the laws or propose something without including the ones being affected
2681 in the – table first. Include them in the conversation, listen to them first, and then make a
2682 proposal. Let's see – what you come out with and I'm sure it wouldn't be this proposal in the first
2683 place.

2684 It's not – that people don't want help. It's that they don't want bandage solutions again given to
2685 them over and over again. Them tired of getting help that helps them today but still keeps them
2686 in the streets tomorrow. We need to stop coming up with bandage solutions and work on long-
2687 term changes that will work – on the liberation of our community and give us the freedom to
2688 work, to stay, to drive, and most importantly the freedom to transform. Thank you.

2689

2690 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2691 Thank you very much. Yes, Ma'am.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2692 **ALMA ROMO**

2693 Hi. My name is Alma Romo. I live in Ward 4, but I've been working in Ward 3 for the past two
2694 years. I am the Nevada State Coordinator with Mi Familia Vota, and on behalf of Mi Familia
2695 Vota, I would just like to say that we're against any selfish and inhumane work. We're against
2696 any oppression against the community or towards the community, and we're against the
2697 ordinance. Thank you.

2698

2699 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2700 Thank you. Yes, Sir.

2701

2702 **JORDAN BIRD**

2703 Hello.

2704

2705 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2706 Hi.

2707

2708 **JORDAN BIRD**

2709 Hi. My name is Jordan Bird. My ZIP Code is 89031. I'm gonna leave here both sides not liking
2710 me. All right. So my, when I came to this meeting, I thought it was a law that was banning all
2711 homelessness to sleep on the street. I later find out that's not true.

2712 Okay. I would not appreciate someone sleeping outside my mama's house. That would make me
2713 very mad. Okay. But take that into account, I sleep in my car by choice. I have my own business.
2714 I'm very successful. I do this for ministering. Okay, and I know another guy, he is homeless to –
2715 further the kingdom of God. Okay, that would ban me from doing that, because where I park is
2716 residential. Excuse me, I have a lot of adrenaline going through my veins right now.

2717 I park in a residential spot. It's safe. It's quiet. It's peaceful. That's where I like to be. I wake up to
2718 the sun shining and the birds chirping. It's amazing. Okay.

2719 Now I believe that we should have some sort of law because I don't want someone sleeping in
2720 front of my mom's house. But right now is not the time. This law does not, it's – too bold. It's too
2721 broad. Five hundred feet, that's outrageous. That's so far. You put 500 feet here, another business

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2722 right here, 500 feet, 500 feet, 500 feet. It's too broad.

2723 Okay, and then that's – just the point. Okay, thank you.

2724

2725 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2726 Thanks so much.

2727

2728 **ERICA CASTRO**

2729 Hello. For the record, my name is Erica Castro, and I live on the east side of Las Vegas. I am
2730 undocumented so I don't feel safe giving you my address given the way that you've been acting
2731 today. Even though I wasn't – born here, I have lived in this, in Las Vegas since I was three years
2732 old, and this is the first time in my life that I am ashamed to call Las Vegas my home. It is
2733 appalling that you find it morally correct to incarcerate people that can't afford to put a roof over
2734 their heads, while businesses, the ones that were here before, that are clearly making a profit
2735 keep complaining. When are they gonna check their privilege? When are you going to check
2736 your privilege?

2737 As a queer woman, I also want to say how horrible this ordinance will be for the LGBT
2738 community, especially trans folks. Youth homelessness is a huge issue for the LGBT
2739 community, and this will only make it worse for them. Oftentimes shelters are not safe for people
2740 like me, trans folks especially. Some shelters are even able to reject services to my community.
2741 So I'll share some quick facts with you from the National Coalition of Homeless from 2017. Up
2742 to 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT, while the general youth population is 10
2743 percent, and 26 percent of them report being forced out of their homes because of their sexual
2744 orientation or gender identity. Many LGBTQ youth have been abused at homeless shelters,
2745 especially those meant for adults, while others avoid shelters altogether. LGBT homeless youth
2746 attempt suicide at a much higher rate than their heterosexual homeless youth counterparts by 62
2747 percent.

2748 These are communities that are already vulnerable. You are criminalizing poor folks simply out
2749 of a whim. You need to check your privilege. You need to understand that we cannot put people
2750 in cages simply because they're inconvenient for you to be sleeping on the street. What we
2751 actually have to do is make sure that we're creating better resources for them to access.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2752 And I'll leave you with this. I said at the beginning I can't vote, but I do have family and friends
2753 that can vote, and I will make sure that I canvas and-

2754

2755 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2756 Thank you very much.

2757

2758 **ERICA CASTRO**

2759 -(Inaudible) against anyone that votes for this ordinance.

2760

2761 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2762 Next, please. Thank you. Next.

2763

2764 **JONAS RAND**

2765 Hello. My name is Jonas Rand. I am a resident of unincorporated Clark County, Paradise such as
2766 it is. I just want to say since I have no script because I've been waiting here for six hours, since
2767 9:00 a.m. for speaking, and I did not expect to speak at first. But since it's been pushed back so
2768 far and I've stayed and I didn't want to fall asleep, not that I'd be in fear of being arrested for
2769 doing so since I'm not homeless, I wanted to speak my piece and say that it is reprehensible for
2770 this ordinance to be proposed in the first place, and it would be a disappointment if any of you
2771 voted for it.

2772 What I've seen so far has been a dismissal of the concerns by the majority of the people attending
2773 this and an insulting appeal to decency and respectability from the likes of you, Mayor
2774 Goodman. And what I've seen has also been something approaching and in my opinion
2775 equivalent to bigotry. What I have right here is a pin that says "Black Lives Matter," but I'd
2776 rather it'd say homeless live matter because it seems like some of you have failed to get the
2777 message.

2778 What I also notice is the justifications for this bill seem to amount to nothing more than bigotry.
2779 One of the speakers earlier said, who was not paid to say this, that there was a homeless person
2780 making motions appearing to indicate suicidal ideation. That's a level of anxiety that I don't think
2781 a lot of people who are in support of this have to deal with and just surviving every day because

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2782 of a lack of resources. And that's something I think a lot of you fail to understand.

2783 What that is, is something that leaves us with two choices. We can either choose to blame the
2784 people who have to go through that-

2785

2786 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2787 I'm so sorry. Your time is up.

2788

2789 **JONAS RAND**

2790 (Inaudible) or we can blame the people that (inaudible).

2791

2792 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2793 Okay. Please, next. Thank you.

2794

2795 **JONAS RAND**

2796 Thank you.

2797

2798 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

2799 I just want to hug him.

2800

2801 **JACKIE CHALKLISS**

2802 Hi. Okay, sorry, I wasn't sure if I was allowed to go yet. My name is Jackie Chalkliss. I live in
2803 the ZIP Code 89117. And I grew up in Las Vegas, and I would be ashamed if this bill was passed
2804 today as our answer to homelessness. You all are here to serve the people, and the majority of the
2805 people oppose this bill. You are hearing today and leading up to this ordinance from the people
2806 who live the reality of this every single day, who are saying this is not the solution.

2807 I feel it is your job to listen and to vote no and to come up with a better solution in collaboration
2808 with the people and organizations who work on this every single day. If you vote yes, my
2809 question is who are you answering to and who are you voting for?

2810 Lastly, I just want to take a step back and humanize this moment. If you wouldn't want your
2811 loved one if they were in the position of homelessness, whether it was your child, your mother,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2812 your father, at their most vulnerable point to be impacted by this bill and be put in jail, then you
2813 should not want that for anyone else. Thank you.

2814

2815 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2816 Thank you. Next, Sir, please.

2817

2818 **MICHAEL SWECKER**

2819 Hello. My name is Michael Swecker. I reside in Henderson, Nevada. This is very exhausting.

2820 I bullet pointed a few points I want to make. I don't want to repeat the concerns today. I'm the

2821 President of an organization called Care Complex, and we own 200 Foremaster Lane, so we have

2822 the unique experience that anybody who visits the Courtyard has to walk right by our facility,

2823 because they cannot enter, as you know, now from the east. And I think one of the main sources

2824 of discontentment on this side is the – disparate understanding of what the Courtyard is and what

2825 it was purported to be here today. So let me take you through a couple of those things.

2826 The point has been made that there are not beds. Beyond not having beds, if there is rain, there is

2827 not even a mat, and people sleep on the ground and people sleep on tables. And so if somebody

2828 commits a murder, they are given a better sleeping quarters than at the Courtyard.

2829 Secondly, it was mentioned that storage is provided. Storage is provided. Like we do at our

2830 facility, we give a humane locker. They give trashcans at the Courtyard.

2831 It was also said that is conducive for a family environment. This is, this really perplexes me

2832 because, per the last focus group that was given at the Courtyard, children aren't allowed.

2833 So what is being purported and what is actually going on at the Courtyard are two entirely

2834 different things, and I think the greatest point that can be made is it's being said that these people

2835 are gonna be transported to services. What services?

2836 And so if there's one thing anybody can agree on here today, and Mayor you were at our facility

2837 when we cut the ribbon. I – think that you care about this issue dearly. I really do. Call me a fool.

2838 I think that you care, and I don't think that you think that this law is the end-all be-all. So how do

2839 you end up, end someone's homelessness? The first thing they need to be able to do is identify

2840 who they are. At the Courtyard, you can get birth certificate and ID assistance two hours a week,

2841 which means necessarily it's not about any homelessness the rest of the time.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2842 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2843 I'm so sorry. We are working on it. Thank you. You're right.

2844

2845 **MICHAEL SWECKER**

2846 Thank you very much.

2847

2848 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2849 It's a step. Thank you.

2850

2851 **NYA AYALA**

2852 Hello. My name is Nya Ayala. I'm from East Las Vegas. I honestly don't have words to
2853 understand how this is even to be. You need to help people. There needs to be affordable
2854 housing, livable working wages. I know it's not a simple answer, but you can't just throw
2855 innocent people in jail. A jail cell is not a shelter. You asked for respect earlier today, but you
2856 don't even have the decency to respect the homeless, to respect and protect the people of the city,
2857 the people that are dying, being raped, living in tents, struggling to find food, and your solution
2858 is to put them in jail.

2859 Help them instead of arrest them. Our money was spent on a stadium to make Vegas better for
2860 the tourists. But what about the people who are already living here? We need to find a solution,
2861 and we need to make better, make things better. Jail time is not a solution. We can't trust cops.
2862 They are not a solution. If you pass this, you will be ruining people's lives. You'll be ending
2863 lives. Thank you.

2864

2865 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2866 Thank you. Next, please.

2867

2868 **JIM CARROWAY**

2869 Afternoon I take it. Hi. My name is Jim Carroway. I've been in this city, county, and state for
2870 nearly 43 years. It will be just a few days after Christmas.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2871 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2872 Good.

2873

2874 **JIM CARROWAY**

2875 Four years with this, ladies and gentlemen. It's happened to me. It can happen to you. It is – an
2876 absolute atrocity. I've gone from being naïve to, God rest my parents' souls, they died here, to
2877 wow. In a word, not good. I still aim to get out of a system that I never should've been in, a four-
2878 year nightmare. Like I said, it can happen to anybody. If this law is passed, well, I already avoid
2879 sleeping on concrete. I stay at Catholic Charities. Thank God for that. Have a good night.

2880

2881 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2882 Thank you.

2883

2884 **WARREN WILLIAMS**

2885 First of all, I'd like to give this to you, Mayor.

2886

2887 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2888 Will you take your hat off, please?

2889

2890 **WARREN WILLIAMS**

2891 Oh, yes. Thank you.

2892

2893 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2894 And your name, Sir, please?

2895

2896 **WARREN WILLIAMS**

2897 My name is Warren Williams, and I'm a resident here in Las Vegas. I'm the Founder of Quality
2898 Living Do Right Ministries for World Peace, Universal Justice and Fairness for All. On the back
2899 wall are the presidents of the United States. The issue is that we're in a moment where we've
2900 never been before. According to "60 Minutes," artificial intelligence is gonna take about 40

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2901 percent of our jobs.

2902

2903 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2904 Right.

2905

2906 **WARREN WILLIAMS**

2907 If that is true, in the future there's gonna be mass unemployment. And if there's gonna be mass
2908 unemployment, it means there's gonna be multiplied beyond any precedented number of
2909 homeless people, not just in Vegas, but in the nation and in the world. This issue is probably the
2910 most critical issue that we confront now and any governmental issue and should be the priority
2911 issue. Only there's a major flaw with it.

2912 Personally, I've never seen a homeless person. I've seen citizens. I've seen people who do not
2913 have shelter at the risk of losing their homes with the ever-increasing prices of rent, utilities, late
2914 fees – on storage units, and all these other fees that exist.

2915 What we have is a issue of quality living for all, and all of us address that responsibly, not to give
2916 a pretense presentation to try to give justification to the law to give viewers a misconception of
2917 what's being discussed here, because they're totally flawed. The homeless are not causing all the
2918 problems with the stores, with the sewer systems and all the other items, because my time is
2919 limited to touch on each one of those items.

2920 The problem is it's that homelessness is a symptom of failed government. And all those
2921 presidents on the wall have failed to address this issue to this day in a way in which there would
2922 be no homelessness. End homelessness and all these issues would cease to exist.

2923

2924 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2925 Thank you very much.

2926

2927 **GABRIELLE D'AYR**

2928 Good afternoon. My name is Gabrielle D'Ayr for the record, and I reside in Clark County. I'm a
2929 United States Navy veteran, and I'm homeless.

2930 I understand that there's a lot of things going on, and I understand that it is a complex issue most

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2931 recently because I actually worked with the League of Women Voters in Los Angeles on their
2932 homelessness issue, and, you know, Los Angelinos approved a one cent tax so that they could
2933 raise enough money to help the homeless issue. So people do care, and people do want to do
2934 things about it. But I – would disagree with you respectfully that this is a resource issue. It's just
2935 not a resource issue.

2936 And while the situation is every bit as complex as people have said, there are solutions out there
2937 already that have proven to work and cost cities a lot less than what I believe this course of
2938 action will do.

2939 And at the end of the day, I'm a human being. Just like everybody else that are out on the street, I
2940 have a story, I have a name, I have a face, and it's really hard to understand the mental space that
2941 a homeless person lives in if you haven't been there yourself. It starts at the very beginning, and
2942 it carries on through. And when the choice, as simplistically put I think by the City Attorney, is,
2943 you know, you're getting cited for breaking the law, you're choosing to do that, am I really
2944 breaking the law? Am I supposed to follow the law of the city that has thrown me away and
2945 refuses to look at me anymore? That's not the answer.

2946 And I would offer the solutions to the Council and to the Mayor that I know will work because
2947 they have worked around the country, and I would encourage you to emulate those solutions and
2948 those plans and please don't punish me for being homeless.

2949

2950 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2951 Thank you.

2952

2953 **MARILYN WHITAKER**

2954 Hello. My name is Marilyn Whitaker, and I'm homeless. I've been homeless for years. When I
2955 retired, I thought, hey, that's enough to get me going. Evidently it didn't. I don't have enough, and
2956 so for – me to survive, I have to go to the shelters. But I've been to the Courtyard before it
2957 became the Courtyard. And why something people can live like that and put people in situations
2958 when you have mice running around and you're under a condemned building that's supposed to
2959 have been demolished before we moved in there. And when it's cold, you throw mats, and I say,
2960 "Can I have a blanket?" You don't furnish blankets. That's the first time I've seen a shelter where

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2961 they don't even furnish that.

2962 And I'm trying to say what did I do wrong? Was it that I'm still living or what is it? I said this
2963 must be hell 'cause it's got to get better than this. Okay? And the thing about this here law about
2964 putting people in jail because they're homeless, how can you say who qualify for being homeless,
2965 who didn't fall asleep by mistake on the sidewalk? Why you gone put everybody in jail? Then
2966 you're going to miss them up for life, and they work and they don't have a place. But they're
2967 going back to their job tomorrow. And then they turn around and can't go because they done put
2968 you in jail, right, and now you've got a record. Now you don't have a job. So it's just a vicious
2969 cycle.

2970 What you need to do is you need to get better – shelters, better living conditions for everyone.

2971 Don't put 'em in a group. And all the, like he said, people playing with their self are not in the –
2972 shelters. You got the White House. You got the preachers. You got everybody. Molesters and
2973 rapists and everybody is all over the place. They're not just in the shelter. Thank you.

2974

2975 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2976 Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

2977

2978 **MEGAN ORTIZ**

2979 My name is Megan Ortiz. I live in North Las Vegas, Nevada, ZIP Code 89081, but I volunteer
2980 for a (c)(3) in Las Vegas that's involved with homeless outreach. I just want to say that I was
2981 born and raised here, and I've watch this humanitarian crisis of houselessness spiral more and
2982 more out of control throughout my entire life. I'm involved in decentralized mutual aid outreach
2983 for houseless people, and I have been for several years. People-

2984

2985 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2986 Excuse me. Excuse me, Ma'am. Excuse me. You'll have to stop. You're being disrespected by the
2987 gentleman there that's clicking his way through your comments. Would you give her back her
2988 two minutes, please? And say your name again so we can begin.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

2989 **MEGAN ORTIZ**

2990 My name is Megan Ortiz.

2991

2992 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2993 Thank you.

2994

2995 **MEGAN ORTIZ**

2996 People are not sleeping on the streets for fun. So for all of you to sit up there and patronize all
2997 these people who have taken time out of their day to come down here, for you to talk about how
2998 city leadership have compassionately been dealing with this for over 20 years highlights the fact
2999 that you have been failing to address this problem in a swift manner like our neighbors in Utah
3000 have. It's insulting to have incompetent leadership-

3001

3002 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3003 Excuse me. Marshal, Marshal, would you please escort him out?

3004

3005 **MEGAN ORTIZ**

3006 -like this. You're only proving the government is, like useless. To attempt to arrest your way out
3007 of this crisis is more costly than to simply house these people and offer them social services. If
3008 those of us out here failed at our jobs for even a day, we'd likely be out of those jobs. But you
3009 have failed the most vulnerable members of your community time and time again, the poor, the
3010 disabled, the marginalized. Yet here you are, you all still have your jobs.

3011 This state has some of the worst income disparities in the country, richest of the rich, poorest of
3012 the poor. This country has more vacant homes than it has homeless people, but we're prioritizing
3013 profits over the lives of people, treating them like throwaways when housing is a human right.

3014 How many houses do all of you have? Have you ever stayed in these shelters? Have you ever
3015 been bitten by bedbugs? When you go to sleep tonight, will you be told you can't have your pets
3016 with you? Will your belongings be stolen? Will you be sexually assaulted?

3017 I've been homeless before. I've been in the system. These kids are set up to be homeless. Young
3018 adults perpetuating a pipeline to prison. Our drinking water is at risk, but where's the drinking

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3019 water for the houseless? Your priorities are all wrong.
3020 Business owners don't want tents on the sidewalk, but people don't want to live in tents on the
3021 sidewalk. You all want to talk about protecting businesses and storm drains. You push people off
3022 the streets into the tunnel, and then they drown when it rains. Where is their protection?
3023 These people are at risk. They're attacked in their sleep, and their blood is on your hands. You
3024 know why hospitals aren't littered with needles? It's 'cause they're offered adequate disposal of
3025 those items.
3026 Half a million annually so Metro can clear encampments so people who have nothing can have
3027 even less. You're telling me it takes equal time to build shelters as it does to build a football
3028 stadium. Exercise some common sense. You think discussion is contentious about this and we're
3029 being volatile, but treating vulnerable people like an eyesore-
3030
3031 **MAYOR GOODMAN**
3032 Thank you very much-
3033
3034 **MEGAN ORTIZ**
3035 -and leaving them to die is violence.
3036
3037 **MAYOR GOODMAN**
3038 Thank you.
3039
3040 **MEGAN ORTIZ**
3041 Okay.
3042
3043 **MAYOR GOODMAN**
3044 Okay. I think we're at the end of public comment, because you're not being respected and we are
3045 not either. I'm sorry. I apologize to each one of you. I'd like to hear you, but the rudeness that is
3046 part of the group in the audience precludes that. The other thing that I would ask every Marshal
3047 to take out everybody that's doing it, but it's much easier to conclude public comment at this
3048 time. Very sorry. Thank your own people.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3049 So at this point, I am closing public comment, and now we will hear for Council for your closing
3050 comments at this time.

3051

3052 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3053 Check for Councilwoman Seaman? Check-

3054

3055 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3056 What? Oh, are you there? Sorry. It's, yeah, we've been here since 9:00 this morning pretty
3057 straight. Are you there Councilwoman Seaman?

3058

3059 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

3060 Yes. Yes, I am here.

3061

3062 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3063 I – am sure you are beyond wilted from the hours that you have been so attentively and quietly
3064 listening. And so do you want to make any closing comments yourself?

3065

3066 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

3067 I – do want make a final comment. I, actually it's 3:00 a.m. in here, but it's very, very important
3068 that I'm listening to the comments. And I first want to thank all organizations and individuals that
3069 took the time to come out and be heard on this important issue.

3070 And having spent a great deal of time, since I joined the City Council, going to their facilities
3071 and meeting with the organizations dealing with what has become the crisis of homelessness in
3072 the city, I want to commend them all for the amazing work that they're doing. We are committed
3073 to working with them on long-term solutions.

3074 The ordinance is not to prosecute homelessness and put people in jail. It's a tool to help them get
3075 where they need to go and stop the encroachment upon downtown residents, downtown
3076 businesses, and residential neighborhoods where too many now sleep, defecate, and urinate in
3077 doorways. These actions do have a strong negative impact on the businesses and residents in
3078 these areas affected.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3079 I believe our goal is to give homeless people the services they need, protect them from exposure,
3080 crime, and disease, and get their lives back on track. To achieve that goal, I believe it is
3081 important that we in the City of Las Vegas join cities like Orlando, Florida, Austin, Texas,
3082 Denver, Colorado, and Seattle, Washington, to name a few, in providing law enforcement with
3083 this ordinance to help get people to those services. A tool I trust our law enforcement will use
3084 with good judgment and caution.

3085 I believe that as elected officials our job is to take on the tough issues facing us, like
3086 homelessness, by supporting policies we believe will work. This ordinance should be supported
3087 by everyone who really wants to get these people help. It's easy to politicize issues and criticize
3088 those providing solutions. But the homeless population is growing, and our residents are
3089 impacted and our businesses are facing the threat of closure in certain areas because of
3090 encampments. We need to act decisively and compassionately.
3091 For these reasons, I am supporting this ordinance as a step in the right direction to help us deal
3092 with the homeless crisis facing our city. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

3093

3094 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3095 Thank you, Councilwoman. So let's start, pardon?

3096

3097 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3098 Tell her to stand by until we vote.

3099

3100 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3101 Oh, don't, I know it's 3:00 in the morning, but hopefully you'll stand by because at the point that
3102 we have heard from closing comments from every Councilperson, there will be a motion. So we
3103 need you to stay with us.

3104

3105 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

3106 Okay.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3107 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3108 And thank you for your comments. Councilman Crear.

3109

3110 **COUNCILMAN CREAR**

3111 Thank you, Madam Mayor. One, I want to thank everybody for coming out today. This has been
3112 a very long day, and those that stuck around to be here, your concerns and your comments are
3113 extremely well taken. It's great to see that our community cares about what's going on with the
3114 homeless issue. It is a major, major, major deal.

3115 Since I took office on April 18th of last year, you know, we've traveled around the country
3116 looking at homelessness and seeing what's working and what's not working. And I can tell you
3117 that there's a lot of good things going on, and there's a lot of things that need a lot of assistance.
3118 You know, a couple misnomers though, and I think it's important to understand that for people to
3119 say the City is not doing anything I think is disingenuous. Since I've come in office, the City has
3120 made this a priority, and it has been a priority before I came in, with the commitment of the
3121 Courtyard, with the commitment of the MORE teams that are out, with the commitment of
3122 building out a \$20 million facility, especially when we're in the middle of a deficit, which means
3123 they had to find money from someplace to put towards this because it's so important in order to
3124 make this happen.

3125 You know, to kind of you give some context, the City of Seattle spends about \$100 million on
3126 homelessness, and then King County there spends about \$75 million. And so we are working our
3127 way up, and they have an ordinance where if you, they tell you, they give you 72 hours to
3128 abandon an area, and if you aren't there, and if you decide you don't want to leave, then they will
3129 arrest you. There's no ticketing. There's no conversation. They will just pick up and they will
3130 arrest you. And that's similar to a lot of cities around – the country.

3131 And so I think it's important, and many people have just have bad information. Either they had
3132 bad information, or you just don't want to recognize that the ordinance is not picking people up
3133 and throwing them in jail.

3134 And, you know, if you look at Ward 5, it's not just one area of Ward 5. And people say that it's
3135 just, you know, people talked about businesses being given relief, and I think they do need relief.

3136 You know, they're the ones that are bringing tourism into our industry. There's a tax base that is

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3137 – taking place. They employ a lot of people. And if those businesses decide to cut back or shut
3138 down, then there are less jobs, which is gonna drive more people out on the streets, less wages,
3139 that's gonna drive people out on the street, and then less tourism is gonna support that.

3140 But Ward 5 is, you know, the Historic Westside. It's half of downtown. It's the Gowan and
3141 Alexander area. It's homelessness inside of the flood culverts out of there. So it's not just the
3142 downtown corridor. It's all over. If you look at the Washington underpass at I-15, there's
3143 encampments along there, and there's a safety issue as well. Someone's gonna get hit. Cars are
3144 coming in through at night. There's encampments underneath that bridge, and bad things are
3145 gonna happen if there's not an opportunity for someone to go into one of our shelters into one of
3146 our beds.

3147 You know, I ask you to talk about and – look at the residents of Ward 5 who deal with this.
3148 Many of you live out in the suburban areas, and you do not deal with encampments in front of
3149 your front yard. But if you go and you speak to Mrs. Bland on the corner of F and McWilliams,
3150 or if you speak to Mr. Leon in that G Street and McWilliams corridor, I urge you to ask them if
3151 they think it's appropriate for a person to encamp, to defecate in their yard, to urinate in their
3152 yard where their grandchildren can't come in and go outside in their yard if, you know, Amena
3153 Clay, who is a granddaughter and she has a great-granddaughter should be able to come to her
3154 house and enjoy their grandmother's house without having to feel like they are going to be
3155 accosted or they have to deal with all of the defecation that is – happening.

3156 And so those people deserve rights as well. It's not just the businesses that many people are
3157 referring to. You know, a lot of statements that businesses are making too much money and
3158 different things, and that's a whole different conversation. But that has nothing to do with the
3159 homeless issue and trying to maintain a business and trying to grow a business in order to
3160 employ people and generate more tax revenue that we can put back into bettering our
3161 community.

3162 Someone talked about the photos that were presented by Jerry Walker and they're old photos.
3163 Well, I urge you to come down to my ward and take a look at if you want to take some photos
3164 and see what's going on. You know, I made a promise to – the residents of – Ward 5 that I would
3165 do something about homelessness, and we are. We're spending a lot of money, making a lot of
3166 energies, and making progress. It's slow progress. It's – government progress, but it takes a long

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3167 time.

3168 And to have an ordinance like this, you only have to go to Los Angeles and look at L.A. County.

3169 If you haven't been to L.A. County, I urge you to take a visit. You know, you've got 10 million

3170 residents. There's 88 different cities in L.A. County.

3171 If you go down to Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles and you look at the 0.6 square miles of

3172 5,000 street homeless residing there on the street, you know, people have heard me say this

3173 before. There's 66 officers that are dedicated to the – LAPD Skid Force. All they do is work the

3174 Skid Row area in downtown. There are people that have barbecue pits outside their tents. There

3175 are people who are breeding pit bulls there. They are selling drugs, alcohol. They're prostituting.

3176 Many talked about the bathrooms that need to happen, and they're prostituting in the bathrooms.

3177 They're selling drugs in the bathrooms. It's not as simple as what you make it seem.

3178 And we cannot do that in our community. We cannot have a skid row in our community. Our

3179 community doesn't want that. And so I believe this is a very, very reasonable first step in order to

3180 try to get people into services. Once again, this only applies if beds are available. We ask them to

3181 go to get services and to get help. If they really want help, this is a great avenue. We'll take you

3182 there. We'll – give you the services that you needed.

3183 We're fortunate that we haven't had a hepatitis breakout yet around some of the food services.

3184 Once again, in my ward, we've got food services that provide milk, that provide ice cream, that

3185 provide meat throughout this entire community. And all it takes is one outbreak for it to happen

3186 and then everyone is gonna say how come the City hasn't done anything about this. You know,

3187 then we have an epidemic in place. People get sick, potentially die. That is a big deal.

3188 So I am in support. One of the things I will say is I've heard a number of organizations come to

3189 talk about they didn't feel like they were informed. If today the Council decided that they wanted

3190 to continue the conversation and bring a working group in with some of the nonprofits that are

3191 doing work, then I'd be in favor of that. But if not, then I completely understand, and I would be

3192 in support of this. Thank you.

3193 You know, one thing else. I received a lot – of notices from people, not in favor, but also in

3194 favor. A lot of neighborhood associations in my ward are in favor. A lot of homeowner

3195 associations are in favor of this, including, you know, NARA, up in the Northwest, who sent us a

3196 very detailed layout of – their concerns.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3197 So this is not just a downtown, this is not just a business issue. This is a community issue. And it
3198 affects a lot of it in – our ward, and that's the ward, Ward 5. Thank you.

3199

3200 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3201 Thank you. Councilman Anthony.

3202

3203 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

3204 Thank you, Mayor. I've been taking quite a few notes here based on the public comment. But I
3205 have to say your ordinance, Mayor, has caused a lot of discussion the last couple of months. I
3206 mean, it's definitely gotten people engaged when it comes to looking at the homeless situation in
3207 Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. And I mean, I've gotten emails, phone calls, letters, people
3208 meeting in my office, paying attention to the media reports, editorials, things like that. And
3209 there's just been great comments.

3210 Today public comment got a little rambunctious this morning, but, you know, that's the way it
3211 goes. And the Mayor did a good job kind of keeping control and allowing everybody to come up
3212 here and have their minute or two minute. And we had a protest out front this morning. It was
3213 non-violent. So that's fine. I mean, we, that's how we do things in America. And we sat up here
3214 all day and the last two months listening to people, and there's been some great comments.

3215 I mean, I want to, Deacon Tom from Catholic Charities wrote a letter and says the tools to
3216 effectively address the systematic causes of homelessness will be expensive, will take time and
3217 will require public, private, and nonprofit collaboration to address chronic mental illness and
3218 addictions to drug alcohol. That's great.

3219 I heard comments we need more housing, we need more beds, we need more shelter. I think the
3220 City's doing plenty to deal with the homeless situation, but people want us to do more and
3221 obviously we're gonna take a look at that. We talked about mental illness and more money and
3222 more collaboration and things like that.

3223 But I also heard people making comments that basically surrounded the following, that this
3224 ordinance is gonna allow law enforcement, and unfortunately law enforcement gets to be called
3225 Gestapo and brown shirts and corrupt and, you know, crap like that. But that's public comment,
3226 and you can say that if you want. But it's gonna allow law enforcement to go out and round up all

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3227 the homeless people in Southern Nevada, every single one of them and take ‘em to jail. That's
3228 the way it was portrayed by a lot of people here, and I don't know where you get that ‘cause
3229 that's not in the ordinance.

3230

3231 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3232 You see it every day.

3233

3234 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3235 Please.

3236

3237 **COUNCILMAN ANTHONY**

3238 That's not absolutely in this ordinance that we're talking about, and the issue that this ordinance
3239 is trying to deal with is something that is happening right now, this second. Every single one of
3240 you, when you leave this meeting and you walk to your cars or you walk wherever you're gonna
3241 go, one or two blocks from City Hall are gonna pass by somebody that is sleeping on the
3242 sidewalk, they're passed out on the sidewalk, they set up a tent, they are defecating, they are
3243 making all kinds of strange noises ‘cause they have mental illness, they're filthy, and that is
3244 inhumane, because we just walk right by ‘em and we do absolutely nothing.

3245 And that's what this ordinance is trying to deal with. It's trying to get people from living off the
3246 streets, living off the sidewalks. The ordinance actually says, if you read it, it's directed towards
3247 public right-of-way. You can't camp. You can't lodge. You can't sleep on a public way. You can't
3248 cook. You can't lay down bedding. You can't lay a tent, and you shouldn't be able to do that.

3249 That is not, that's causing chaos and that's causing disorder. It's causing chaos for businesses. It's
3250 causing chaos for residents. It's causing chaos when people walk around the downtown area and
3251 walk by these folks and nothing is being done. And all this does is allow law enforcement, with
3252 the help of these MORE teams, to go up to these folks and say you can't do this anymore. You
3253 can't lay on the sidewalk. You're either going to go to a bed, because a bed is available for ya, or
3254 you're going to go to jail. I mean, that's just the way it is. If the bed is not available, then you're
3255 not gonna go to jail if you don't want to leave.

3256 So I think this is, you know, it's – really about time we try to get – a handle on this stuff in the

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3257 downtown area. And if you look at – San Francisco, I just read an article, the Council of
3258 Economic Institute for the Bay Area, from 2004 to 2014, spent \$2 billion on the homeless
3259 situation there. And San Francisco is a disaster, an absolute disaster.
3260 L.A., the L.A. County Department of Public Health said that, from 2013 to 2018, the homicides
3261 for homeless people doubled because it's outta control and they're not doing anything about it.
3262 So this I believe is a great step to try to get a handle on people that are just sleeping outside on
3263 the sidewalk and try to get them some help or get them into the system. And I have complete
3264 faith in our law enforcement system. I have complete faith in our prosecutors. I have complete
3265 faith in our judges that when these people go into the criminal justice system, they're not gonna
3266 get a \$1,000 fine. They're not gonna get six months in jail. They're probably gonna get some
3267 help, and we're probably gonna stand up a homeless – court to get these people some help.
3268 So I thank you, Mayor, for sponsoring this is, and I support it 100 percent.

3269

3270 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3271 Thank you very much. Okay, Mayor Pro Tem, let's go to you. And we're going to go straight
3272 down. And I'll conclude.

3273

3274 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3275 Thank you, Madam Mayor. So I'm gonna – start with this ordinance is about safety, health, and
3276 sanitation. Period. You know, we can have political disagreements, and we can have spirited
3277 debates and that's fine. We can have informed discussions, and that's fine. But intentionally
3278 misrepresenting an issue, that's where it's not fine, and that's exactly where we find ourselves
3279 today on the issue of homelessness in downtown Las Vegas.

3280 To give you an idea of just how serious the problem could potentially become, consider the
3281 following reports from 2011 to 2018, when Councilman Stavros Anthony mentioned San
3282 Francisco. Two thousand and eleven and '18, San Francisco experienced a massive increase in
3283 reported incidents of human feces found on public streets. Two thousand eleven, it was just over
3284 5,500. Two thousand and eighteen, it went to 28,000, and that was only the documented
3285 incidents. That wasn't the undocumented incidents.

3286 The Insider further noted that these numbers only included, like I said, the things that were

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3287 reported. The actual amount of feces on San Francisco streets is likely even higher than those.
3288 This is the balance of interest in this ordinance and is designed to address, but our ordinance is
3289 even more reasonable and empathetic to the plight of the City's homeless. The proposal
3290 specifically stipulates that the ordinance can only be enforced if we have the available space. In
3291 cases where beds are available at the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center or other service
3292 providers along the Corridor of Hope.
3293 When we look at, and – here's the thing. Councilman Crear and I, and he's traveled to more states
3294 that I have, we went to Texas twice. We've looked at their Haven for Hope. We've looked at their
3295 model, and it's working and they have an ordinance just like ours.
3296 And I – sat here today and I listened to so many people as if this was new. One person even said,
3297 you know, this is on national news. Well, I do know because I woke up at 1:00 this morning to
3298 go on Fox, on national news to talk about the ordinance. It is national.
3299 But what you guys are forgetting is there's 107 other cities that already have these ordinances in
3300 place and specific areas of the cities. There are 64 cities that it's citywide, no matter where, like
3301 Denver, Orlando. Okay? There's a lot of, there's 64 cities countrywide that have it citywide
3302 banned.
3303 So when I look at these lists and I hear candidates bash Las Vegas, you know, 'cause they're
3304 politically running for something, let me tell you one of the ordinances, Burlington, Vermont,
3305 Senator Sanders' home, he has the same ordinance. Boston, Massachusetts, Senator Warren's
3306 home, she has the same ordinance.
3307 So if beds are available, the homeless individuals can use them free of charge rather than camp
3308 or sleep on a public sidewalk or a private property. If beds aren't available, the ordinance
3309 wouldn't even be enforced. And in the first 90 days of this ordinance, it's not gonna be enforced
3310 until January of 2020. So this is where we start.
3311 The accusation that we are criminalizing people who are homeless is just plain false. Under the
3312 proposed ordinance, listen-
3313
3314 **MAYOR GOODMAN**
3315 Please.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3316 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3317 You can leave.

3318

3319 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3320 Please. You've had your chance.

3321

3322 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3323 Yeah.

3324

3325 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3326 Let me roll my eyes at you twice.

3327

3328 **MAYOR PRO TEM FIORE**

3329 Bye-bye. Under this proposed ordinance, if the authorities discover a homeless encampment,

3330 they have the options basically to ask the homeless person to move on and not set up their

3331 encampment. And you know what? We've even taken it a step further. We'll help you get to a

3332 place where you can lay your head safely, you and your family members.

3333 Homeless individuals do have rights. And you know what? So does the citizens, the business

3334 owners, and the residents and even my grandchildren.

3335 You know, on Friday, City Hall is closed. I have six grandchildren. And a couple months ago I

3336 had two of my grandkids here on a Friday. They love City Hall. And we left and we went out on

3337 Main Street, and there was a homeless individual laying on a cardboard box. It was 5:00. And

3338 maybe he just didn't realize that his pants was undone, but my two young grandchildren got to

3339 see all of his anatomy. And that was the major discussion at our slumber party for the next 24

3340 hours. And then my daughter said, where did you take my kids? I said, I –, you know, how do

3341 you explain that to a parent?

3342 So we have rights too. And so it's just a common sense compromise that protects everyone's

3343 rights here. That's it. There's nothing else the authorities can do. That is not criminalizing

3344 homelessness.

3345 So I have to also say that there was a list given to us, this whole City Council, a list of

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3346 organizations that someone had said, a progressive organization, that someone had said all of
3347 these agencies were opposed to this organization. Well, according to the Foundation for
3348 Recovery, they were never asked to oppose the ordinance. Instead an employee who worked
3349 there was asked if she opposed the ordinance, and she signed on for herself, not the Foundation
3350 for Recovery.

3351 So how many of those organizations listed did that happen to? So again, it's false information.
3352 Spirited debate, great. But misrepresenting something that we're doing for everyone is not okay.
3353 And I'm gonna leave it at that, Mayor, Madam Mayor.

3354

3355 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3356 Okay. Thank you. Thank you. And now Councilman Knudsen and then Councilwoman Diaz.

3357

3358 **COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN**

3359 First of all, Mayor, thank you very much for the way you conducted the meeting. I think it was
3360 respectful, and there was a lot of people here and I am very appreciative for everyone and the
3361 time you took to be here for this long. I have – several comments, and so I wanna – jump right
3362 into it.

3363 We are a very diverse board, and I appreciate that very much. We represent different ideologies,
3364 different races, different qualities in how we live our life, and I think each of us do a tremendous
3365 job representing the constituents that we, that elected us. I'm very grateful for this Board and for
3366 the leadership it takes to – bring about this type of conversation and this type of dialogue. I
3367 appreciate democracy, and I love the debate. And so I'm grateful for the opportunity to debate.
3368 Our approaches differ, and that's where I want to really focus my comments on. Because I – don't
3369 agree with this approach, it doesn't diminish my respect for the members of this Council or for
3370 the Mayor. And every single person up here has respect and is doing the very best they can by
3371 their constituents and working towards treating people with dignity. And I do believe that. But I
3372 represent a constituency, and I want to speak on their behalf as well.
3373 There's a lot of passion in this room. There's a lot of passion around this topic, and I think there
3374 is so much we can do as a community, and that's where I choose to focus. Based on some of the
3375 comments today, I do wanna bring about a couple of challenges that I have.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3376 Mr. Jerbic, the City Attorney, mentioned that this is, the road to ending homelessness doesn't
3377 start with wishful thinking. Many of the cities that were talked about, San Francisco included,
3378 Seattle, Austin, I've been to those cities. They are on the list that currently have encampment
3379 bans. They don't look any different than Las Vegas. I've traveled a lot. I'm a fortunate person.
3380 I've – been in a lot of downtowns. Most of them look very similar to our downtown. When we
3381 talk about the economics of the impact of individuals suffering from homeless in our community,
3382 our downtown is booming right now, absolutely booming, and that's a presentation that we get
3383 every other Council meeting is how successful downtown is doing right now despite the fact that
3384 we have an increasing unsheltered homeless population. I have not seen it impact negatively the
3385 downtown business community.

3386 There was a comment made around what services. It was the gentleman over there that he said,
3387 what services are we offering? That's where I have really struggled coming into this position.
3388 Last week, myself and several of the judges from our municipal court went on a tour. A question
3389 was asked if there was an able-bodied man who comes into the Courtyard, who is not suffering
3390 from mental addiction, who is not suffering from addictions and is able to get his life back
3391 together, how long does it take to get into transitional housing. And the response is maybe,
3392 maybe more than a year.

3393 And so that's what I come back to is oftentimes thinking is are we going down a wishful thinking
3394 path in thinking that a person if they really want to get services and want to get their mental
3395 health and physical health and employment services, can they sleep on a park bench for a year
3396 and expect that to be successful?

3397 As the elected leader of Ward 1, I have some very serious concerns. If you look at the map that
3398 was presented, the enforcement of this ordinance covers one neighborhood in Ward 1. For my
3399 constituents that believe that this ordinance is the answer to removing individuals from their
3400 residences or their businesses, it covers one neighborhood and nothing more. For those people
3401 who believe that this will be the answer to their solution, again it is wishful thinking because my
3402 response will be that this ordinance does not cover anything beyond the Medical District, and my
3403 ward is much greater than just the Medical District. So I have very serious concerns about the
3404 residents of my ward and their belief that this an answer to their challenges that they're facing.
3405 As a representative of taxpayers in the City, I have very serious concerns. There's significant

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3406 research and data that will confirm the public safety and criminal justice systems are the most
3407 expensive course of action for working with individuals affected by homelessness, mental health,
3408 and addiction issues. As good stewards of tax dollars, there are other paths that are more
3409 responsible for providing services while protecting the taxpaying public's interests.

3410 Mr. Jerbic, the City Attorney, mentioned that the challenges with people affected by
3411 homelessness relate to wages and benefits from employment or lack thereof, relate to mental
3412 illness, relate to housing challenges, relate to health challenges. None of those things are within
3413 the job description of any police officer. I can't come to a logical conclusion of why officers are
3414 involved in this solution to homelessness.

3415 The services mentioned by the City of Las Vegas are not enough to address the need at a regional
3416 level. The latest census data calculated that nearly 64 percent of our homeless population are
3417 unsheltered. We simply don't have enough beds. I don't understand bringing them to a place
3418 where they'll still be sleeping outside.

3419 All that being said, we live in a very divisive time in our community, and I don't think that's the
3420 right way to go about this. Pointing fingers and placing blame on areas that we disagree is not
3421 useful. The City of Las Vegas, its elected board and its staff have taken significant steps forward.
3422 Some of those things have been talked about today. I think they're very important 'cause I've
3423 been actively involved.

3424 And when we talk about low income housing that the City of Las Vegas has supported, when we
3425 talk about FQHCs or federally qualified healthcare centers that provide critical health care
3426 services for individuals, the City of Las Vegas has been actively involved in leading that effort. I
3427 am very proud. I serve on the Health District Board with Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, and we just
3428 approved a new FQHC. I was in D.C. this past couple of days learning about the new services
3429 that we can provide in our community.

3430 That is the necessary steps to go forward, and the City has been very active in that, and so I
3431 commend the City staff for being proactive in that.

3432 One of the things that I think is relevant, I've – had a significant amount of experience working
3433 with people in poverty. I've worked with many of the nonprofits who have voiced their
3434 opposition to this today. When you look at the allocation of services, there are almost no
3435 providers in the downtown core. It's almost impossible to receive mental or physical health

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3436 services living in the downtown core. So we're putting people in a position that they simply
3437 cannot be successful.

3438 There are a lot of dedicated professionals working on this, and I get very passionate about this
3439 because this has been my life for the last 10 years. If we only focus on those things that we
3440 disagree, then nothing will happen. We will not move forward.

3441 There are so many things that we do agree on, and applauding the City for things that have gone
3442 well and worked well, the staff, the elected officials, and everyone else who have been pushing
3443 for progress at the local, county, and state level, I stand behind them and I support them. No
3444 matter the decision that comes about today, I will stand side-by-side with my colleagues at the
3445 City at the elected official level and at the staff level.

3446 But I will be doing more. And so my opposition is not just that. It's a commitment to do more,
3447 and here's the things that I believe I can do. Because I have more than 10 years of experience
3448 working in the field of poverty, I was the CEO of a nonprofit working with children in poverty
3449 and I've been working with many of our nonprofits. The challenge is connecting our mental and
3450 physical health services and housing to people in poverty.

3451 My action items will be this. I will continue to facilitate meetings between representatives from
3452 the Department of Health and Human Services at the state level and the county level with the
3453 City of Las Vegas, talking about network adequacy with Medicaid, making sure there are enough
3454 mental and physical health providers in the downtown core. That begins with the steps taken by
3455 Councilwoman Diaz and myself with the federally qualified healthcare center and the two
3456 additional qualified healthcare centers that the City is supporting in the downtown core.

3457 I will continue to make sure that our housing representatives are nonprofit housing providers and
3458 our shelter providers are connected to Medicaid, because one of the solutions that was talked
3459 about today by Mr. Stalk was intensive case management. It's not just housing alone. It's housing
3460 and supportive case management services along with housing. And I believe that I have the
3461 ability to facilitate some of those very needed meetings.

3462 At the end of the day, this is a very, very tough issue. It's intractable problems. It's never going
3463 away. It has been here since the beginning of – humanity.

3464 My path is not the easiest path, and some would say that I'm naïve and that I don't know what I'm
3465 doing. But I do. I've been doing this for quite a while. There is a lot of work to do. It is very

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3466 costly. It's very time intensive, and it requires people to come together and work together. So for
3467 everyone in this audience that voiced their opposition to what happened today, don't let it stop at
3468 just opposition. Let it begin with the opposition and the belief that consensus can be gained and
3469 that we can work together towards finding more common sense solutions to a challenge that is
3470 intractable.

3471 I appreciate the time my colleagues and this audience have afforded me thus far. I appreciate the
3472 staff who have shouldered the brunt of my passion, and every – single person of the staff knows
3473 what I'm talking about. I'm very passionate about this. And despite my opposition to this
3474 ordinance, and I will be voting no, I appreciate the Mayor for having the courage to say that Las
3475 Vegas can be better. Thank you.

3476

3477 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3478 Councilman Diaz.

3479

3480 **COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ**

3481 Thank you, Madam Mayor, and I'm going to be echoing much of Councilman Knudsen's
3482 sentiment in my remarks. First and foremost, I do want to thank my colleagues that sit on the
3483 City Council with me and the Mayor for starting this spirited debate.

3484 It is a highly charged topic. It's really difficult to navigate through this kind of topic without
3485 having the emotions come out. So I want to commend everybody who did participate in the
3486 discourse today, who did come to share your thoughts and your vision of what you think Las
3487 Vegas and a compassionate Las Vegas looks like.

3488 I've been listening to my constituents. I've been listening to the experts in the homelessness
3489 arenas. I've listened to homeless advocates. I toured the Corridor of Hope. And I've been
3490 weighing back and forth is this ordinance a prudent step forward.

3491 And as I listened to everybody who came before me, whether it be in my office or that I asked
3492 questions of, there is a lot of apprehension about enforcing this ordinance because there's a lot of
3493 concerns about the additional stress levels that it will bring to our already strapped law
3494 enforcement agencies. And so what will happen to the calls that need fast responses or
3495 emergency responders that have to also shoulder a lot of this work? And also I even heard about

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3496 nurses who work in the ERs and how overwhelmed they currently are. And will this further
3497 exacerbate their caseloads that are coming through the hospital system?

3498 I am also concerned as an educator about our homeless youth and their families who are
3499 currently struggling already, living in their cars, trying to keep it together. And while I know the
3500 City's intention is to provide the support and the services through our Courtyard, I do feel that we
3501 still have many gaps, and we do have to lean on a lot of other service providers in order for us to
3502 make these families and these youth whole. We can't go at it alone.

3503 We need to focus on transitional and affordable housing. We do need to look at ways that we can
3504 provide these caseworkers to get people back on the right track. I am a true believer, and I am an
3505 optimist, like Councilman Knudsen, that we can come together as a southern region, we can
3506 partner up with our surrounding municipalities, state legislators, governor, federal delegation, put
3507 our heads together. We should not let this die today. Whatever the vote be, I hope that all of my
3508 constituents, all of you here today, the private sector, everyone feels equally invested in putting
3509 our heads together so that we can come up with a compassionate, effective, and long-term result-
3510 like solution to helping those who need a hand up.

3511 And so from my constituents' perspective, they are concerned that we're gonna focus overly on
3512 the areas in the map and that we are going to cause the unintended consequence of pushing the
3513 homeless out further into residential areas and, yeah, their quality of life will be impacted
3514 because, you know, our City staff is doing as much as they can and as diligently as they can, but
3515 I'm not sure how quickly we'll be able to – build up the reinforcements for our MORE team, for
3516 our maintenance staff. And so I would much rather see that we have all of these gaps addressed,
3517 all of these services being furnished. And after that, when we say we have the beds, we have the
3518 space, and they're still not taking the opportunity to utilize the transitional housing or the
3519 affordable housing we have provided, then I think this would have been the best second policy
3520 idea to consider.

3521 So with that, Madam Mayor, I will be voting in opposition respectfully, but knowing that my
3522 constituents do want to see us cooperating regionally on this very important issue.

3523

3524 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3525 Thank you. Well, I want to thank everybody today. I really want to thank my colleagues for

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3526 sitting here all day long, listening and hearing you all. I want to thank our City team. I thought
3527 the presentation was very accurate for what we've been doing. I want to thank all the support
3528 services that have been here. Most importantly, I want to thank all of our social services that 11
3529 year goes, when I was elected, pulled them all together at the top executive level to help them
3530 raise funds to address the social service needs of this community.

3531 That was the group to which Councilman Knudsen has referred he has been working with, as
3532 have I and have been supporting anything to help our community show leadership in this country
3533 and its humanitarian and deeply caring uniqueness. And that's why we are on national news,
3534 aside from the fact that I belong to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which is over 1,000 mayors
3535 who have cities of 30,000 or more. And every time I meet with them or talk to them on the
3536 phone, their issues are the same concerns that we have.

3537 The difference has been that the City of Las Vegas has an international reputation, and we are
3538 watched, and we are watched for our leadership. And we are watched for actions that we take.
3539 Everybody's well-meaning. Everybody. I don't care what the issue is when we're working
3540 together.

3541 This has been ongoing that I have a personal involvement with for 20 years. At this moment, we
3542 have just heard from Councilwoman Diaz and Councilman Knudsen of great passion and dreams
3543 for the future. I am concerned about the future and the gentleman who spoke to us about what's
3544 happening with automated everything. Where are those jobs gonna be that we desperately need?
3545 I heard Brad Jerbic, right at the beginning, talk about the fact that jobs don't pay, don't pay you to
3546 live.

3547 These are national issues. They're federal issues. They're state issues. They're county issues.
3548 They're city issues. We in the city of Las Vegas are a community of 155 square miles. We have
3549 no authority over the school system. We have no authority over the County. We have no
3550 authority over North Las Vegas, Boulder City, or Henderson for that matter.

3551 What we do have authority over is our community. And we have had meetings for 20 years on
3552 this very subject, meetings. And I can assure you walk into room where roundtables are set up
3553 and you know we're gonna have another meeting and another conversation. And they're gonna
3554 put notes up and ask each table to give their thoughts and what are they gonna do. What would
3555 they suggest? And here we are 20 years later and we have no results.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3556 So I asked for this ordinance to be a step, not a penalty and not a criminal penalty, but to be
3557 given the right to take care of ourselves. We can't do anything at the County. That's why these
3558 conversations are asked to put us all together. We're having a hard enough time just controlling
3559 our city, over which we do have the jurisdiction.

3560 I want to see results. I don't want to see them. I want to see better things in the future. I want
3561 results today. I want to see every human being that lives in this city or beds down in this city
3562 have the respect for everybody else in this city. And it started right now today with disrespect
3563 that was happening, which shows me these are the few, not all of you for sure. It's not all of
3564 anything.

3565 This takes, and I believe her name was, and I don't know if she's still here. But when Ward 5,
3566 Leslie Turner. And when she spoke, she comes from Ward 5, my first thought was every one of
3567 us, every one of us that can participate, it starts with me. Each one of us, everybody that's
3568 watching, all these people, what are you doing positively? What are you doing positively to get
3569 us the funds, help us direct our dollars to these issues?

3570 And it's not about delaying. I'm sorry. Every one of these homeless people matter to me. And I
3571 want them to have the chance to dignity and self-respect and getting a job and getting the
3572 training and getting it back into a productive life for themselves and their families and their loved
3573 ones.

3574 We kick this down for one more meeting, one more group getting together and having another
3575 discussion, we will be here in another 50 years with the exact same thing, because we have, as
3576 Councilman Crear said to you, he's been everywhere. All he's trying to do is get more and more
3577 information. What's the cure? Give us the model.

3578 Prepare a model. Look, there's nothing perfect. We all know one day we're all going to die, and
3579 we have to pay taxes if we have income to pay taxes upon. Those are two givens. You're gonna
3580 pay taxes, and you're gonna die. Everything else in life is a matter of each individual doing his or
3581 her best to solve the solution and help somebody else.

3582 And we in the City of Las Vegas for 20 years before my, well, I think Councilman Anthony is
3583 the only one that's been sitting up here at least for four years or whatever you had with my
3584 husband, but for 20 years trying to help this situation.

3585 So what we have created is flawed. It is flawed, but it's a step and it's a concrete step. And it's a

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3586 first step. And we created the Corridor of Hope, and we created along with our brothers and
3587 sisters from the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities and every other organization, HELP and
3588 HAND, all of them that are part of our family, and – certainly Arnold Stalk with Veterans
3589 Village, how that has been increasing and SafeNest. Every one of them is to take a step and do
3590 something and stop talking about it.

3591 We cannot have more meetings. That we appeared in front of the legislature of the State of
3592 Nevada, one of four states in the entire country that meets every other year. We went up there
3593 and made an appeal for everyone here in this situation. We got nowhere. We didn't get the help
3594 standing up with us from the other jurisdictions. We went up there.

3595 This is gonna start with each one of us, and unfortunately so many of you who are part of this
3596 group of support for the homelessness and how this is a bad ordinance. It is a bad ordinance. It is
3597 not criminally focused. It's to stop-

3598

3599 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3600 (Inaudible).

3601

3602 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3603 Who said that? Outta here. Out right now. This is my time. Get outta here. Get that person outta
3604 here right now. I was so respectful to all of you today and all the way through this with our
3605 Council. I deserve the time, and I have been working with all-

3606

3607 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3608 (Inaudible).

3609

3610 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3611 Anybody else wants to get up right now, get out.

3612

3613 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3614 Yeah, that's respectful. That's all right. We'll get you out.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3615 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3616 Sorry, you don't have a chance. I'm already in my term limit.

3617 So the issue is here. What can each one of us take it upon ourselves how am I gonna help? Now

3618 Leslie, who was kind enough, Turner, she said we have ideas. Well, I recommend that those of

3619 you who are of calmness and can have a conversation where you listen to each other from the

3620 population get together, give us your input so as we continue to build from a tiny little seed, this

3621 is the beginning seed to build something that will flourish. And every time we stop to have

3622 another conversation or try to get funds because the competition among our social services for

3623 the dollars to help, they're in competition with each other to raise funds. But our legislature sits,

3624 and we don't have a pathway to law every year, which every other state has except for four and

3625 we are one of those four. And they have asked that we have another meeting, we create another

3626 committee.

3627 We've been doing this for 20 years for those of you who are new to town or new to this body.

3628 We have been having these conversations, and we must have results. I want us to see us take the

3629 leadership in Las Vegas of the benevolency of our community and show the rest of the country.

3630 We know we make mistakes. We know this isn't perfect. But this small first step we're gonna

3631 find the flaws and we're gonna fix them. But let us attend to the fact that we have the Courtyard

3632 with mats. We didn't have anything before. And each mat and each trash bin, we either have to

3633 get it donated or we have to buy it. And unfortunately, for our homeless population, you don't

3634 pay taxes. You don't pay taxes. Maybe a few who are employed do.

3635 So we're asking the rest of our city, the city of Las Vegas, 155 square miles residencies, please

3636 help us. Help us through the Mayor's Fund. Help us get the money so we can build for the future.

3637 We're doing this every time we find that we're working at a deficit up here. We've got to steal

3638 from Peter to pay Paul. We are not a money machine.

3639 Everything, when you hear an idea, ask the person with whom you're having the conversation,

3640 how're you gonna pay for it? We've had many of the national candidates, who are running for

3641 president, take on Las Vegas. We wish they had the silver bullet for us. If anybody had the silver

3642 bullet, we would be on that bandwagon immediately. But more meetings, you're not two years

3643 out, you're four years out, 'cause if you think today has been any dialogue that wasn't passionate,

3644 start incorporating all these other groups that have their own issues.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3645 We are the City of Las Vegas. And I am asking you to understand that this is not penalty
3646 oriented. This is not a criminal. This is to get our homeless into an environment of reentry into
3647 the best life in this community. And it was a small step. It is a kernel. And for those of us who
3648 had the good pleasure to have a family or have a child, it's as you birth that child and you have
3649 the child that's lying there, and in three months they're connecting, you can see there's something
3650 going on, and it takes time for that little baby to grow to the point that they can get on their knees
3651 or sit. And then it takes more time and love and affection and caring so they can crawl and then
3652 they can walk and then they can run.

3653 So this is flawed, but it is a start. And the reason I brought it, there's one person there, sitting
3654 shaking his head, and let me ask you what you have done for anyone. This city tries and has been
3655 sacrificing-

3656

3657 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER**

3658 (Inaudible).

3659

3660 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3661 Excuse me. You had your time. This is –, excuse me, you have had your time. So I am just
3662 saying to you I am gonna move that we adopt this. Because of this wonderful gentleman who
3663 doesn't keep his mouth shut when it's my time, I am gonna move at this point Councilman,
3664 Councilwoman Seaman, **I am gonna move for adoption-**

3665

3666 **JEFF DOROCAK**

3667 Mayor?

3668

3669 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3670 Pardon?

3671

3672 **JEFF DOROCAK**

3673 One second. Just for the record-

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3674 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3675 Oh, you have to read it.

3676

3677 **JEFF DOROCAK**

3678 For the motion, **you're going to make the motion with the First Amendment.** The First
3679 Amendment makes clear that the ordinance covers all Downtown Master Plan Districts,
3680 including the Historic Westside and also that additional section that we added. Although the
3681 ordinance would become effective Sunday, it makes clear that the penalty, criminal penalty
3682 provisions do not go into effect until February 1, 2020. **So with the First Amendment on your**
3683 **motion, please.**

3684

3685 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3686 Thank you very much. Does that cover it? Do I have to read anything else from this?

3687

3688 **JEFF DOROCAK**

3689 (Inaudible).

3690

3691 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3692 Thank you very much. And so I am going to move Councilwoman Seaman to adopt Agenda
3693 Item, what is it, 62 and hope that everybody will help with ideas and support and not push
3694 negatively. This is Las Vegas. This is your city, our city. We are one people. We are the most
3695 diverse community that I know of any larger municipality. This is about all of us together, and
3696 for anybody who is saying no, this is not your city then.

3697 So please vote. This is a start. Please vote, and Councilwoman Seaman.

3698

3699 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

3700 It is an honor to be on your Council, Madam Mayor, and I vote yes to support your-

3701

3702 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3703 Thank you. Thank you. And go to sleep. We appreciate your waiting all this time. And please

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 62

3704 post.

3705

3706 **COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN**

3707 Thank you, Madam Mayor.

3708

3709 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3710 That motion passes (**Motion passed with KNUDSEN and DIAZ voting No**).

3711

3712 **JEFF DOROCAK**

3713 The motion is to approve Item 62 with the First Amendment.

3714

3715 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

3716 Thank you. Thank you.

3717

3718 **END OF DISCUSSION**

3719 /af